

Program Overview

The ECMC Driver Evaluation Program should be used to determine an individual's ability to initiate or resume driving, given a physical, cognitive, or visual impairment. The evaluation provides both physicians and patients with objective, functional, and performance information regarding an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely and independently.



Department of
Occupational Therapy **(716) 898-3225**
email: driveinfo@ecmc.edu

The ECMC Corporation includes an advanced academic medical center (ECMC) with 550 inpatient beds and 136 skilled nursing home beds, on- and off-campus health centers, over 40 outpatient specialty care clinics, and the Erie County Home, a skilled nursing facility. ECMC is the regional center for trauma, burn care, rehabilitation, and is a major teaching facility for the State University of New York at Buffalo. Most ECMC physicians, dentists, and pharmacists are dedicated faculty members of the University. More Western New York residents are choosing ECMC for exceptional patient care and customer service provided as a result of its *Culture of Care*.

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THE CULTURE OF CARE

Department of Occupational Therapy

Driver Evaluation Program

ECMC

An affiliate of the University at Buffalo
School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

■ Special Service for
Western New York



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Who Should be Referred?

Any individual whose ability to initiate or resume driving is in doubt, or when a physical, cognitive, or visual impairment presents a possible risk to independent driving.

Diagnostic Groups

Individuals referred to the program fall into one of the following categories:

- Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Amputations
- Orthopaedic/Multiple Trauma
- Muscular Dystrophy (MD)
- Cerebral Palsy (CP)
- Learning Disabled/Mental Retardation
- Older Drivers

Evaluation Components

The Driver Evaluation Program is conducted by licensed occupational therapists who are driver rehabilitation specialists. The evaluation includes a clinical and functional assessment and a road test. Specific evaluation components include:

- An actual driving performance using the specialized driving equipment required by the individual
- Reaction time testing
- Strength and functional endurance
- Coordination
- Cognitive skills
- Visual perception

Services

The driver evaluation is completed in a specially equipped car to determine an individual's driving safety and possible need for adaptive driving equipment.

This special equipment may include: hand or foot controls, steering device modifications, a panoramic mirror, or a left gas accelerator.



Requirements for Referral

To receive a driver evaluation, a person must be referred by:

- A physician, who must provide a prescription stating "occupational therapy driver evaluation"
- A neuropsychologist
- A court system
- The Department of Motor Vehicles
- The patient (self-referral) or a family member

To make an appointment, or for more information, contact ECMC's Outpatient Occupational Therapy Department at **(716) 898-3225**.

Focus on Ability, Not Disability About ECMC's Rehabilitation Department

ECMC's Rehabilitation Medicine Department is the oldest and largest acute level inpatient rehabilitation unit in the area. The region's first spinal cord injury unit was opened at ECMC in 1979, and in 1982 the head trauma program was established. In addition to occupational therapy, the department also includes physiatry, physical therapy, and speech therapy services.