

Managing medical conditions and driving

Some medical conditions can affect driving. If there is a chance that you won't be able to control the vehicle or react safely and quickly to the road environment, you might need to manage your condition in relation to driving.



Some medical conditions are temporary, such as after surgery while others can develop gradually or be long lasting.

Driving safely

Drivers need three abilities to drive safely. If any of these are compromised, driving can be affected.



1. Sensory input

- vision
- visuospatial perception
- hearing



2. Cognitive function

- attention and concentration
- comprehension
- memory
- insight
- judgement
- decision making
- reaction time
- sensation



3. Motor function

- muscle power
- coordination



SAFETY TIP – reporting a medical condition means that you are able to manage your condition so that you and everyone you share the road with are kept safe.

What medical conditions can affect driving?

Musculoskeletal conditions

Cardiovascular disease

Dementia

Psychiatric conditions

Diabetes

Substance misuse/dependency

Blackouts

Neurological conditions

Vision problems

Sleep disorders

Epilepsy



Regulatory requirements for driver testing

Depending on the state or territory you live in there are different ways to manage driving with a medical condition. For detailed information, refer to the [Assessing Fitness to Drive guidelines](#).

VIC

Vision test for initial licence. Assessments if a medical condition is reported.

QLD

Assessment needed if a vision condition is declared by a driver or is mandatory for some commercial drivers. Drivers must carry a current medical certificate if they have a mental or physical condition that affects their driving or are at least 75 years of age. Periodic medical assessments for some commercial drivers.

NSW

Vision assessment for initial licence and periodic review. Medical assessment from 75 years of age and periodically for commercial drivers.

ACT

Vision assessment for initial licence and periodic review. Medical assessment from 75 years of age and periodically for commercial drivers.

SA

Vision and medical assessments are needed from age 70 or periodically for some commercial drivers. Periodic medical assessments for some commercial drivers.

WA

Vision test on application. Vision and medical assessments from 80 years of age. Earlier assessment may be needed due to a medical condition. Some periodic assessments for commercial drivers.

NT

Vision assessment for initial licence. Medical assessment if condition is reported or upon commercial driver application.

TAS

Vision test for initial licence and medical assessment if a condition is reported. Vision and medical assessments needed for initial application for commercial drivers and some periodic assessments are required.