

Fitness to Drive Webinar, Further Questions (27/10/20)

- **Are driving assessments and results transferable for interstate drivers licence purposes?**

VicRoads will accept any reports, medical, vision, and driving assessments completed by occupational therapists' trained in driver assessments from interstate as long as they provide sufficient information in which a 'fitness to drive' decision can be made.

- **Is there an appeal process for customers that may disagree with a VicRoads medical review decision or is the VicRoads decision final?**

There are two avenues of appeal. Customers need to appeal a decision within 28 days of the decision:

1. Internal Review

This is an internal review of the case/decision conducted by a different department within VicRoads. They will review the case and correspond directly with the customer with their decision, which could be decision affirmed, amended or overturned. VicRoads has 28 days to review the case.

2. Magistrates' Court Appeal

Customers appeal to a Magistrate's court regarding the decision. All cases are defended by VicRoads. The appeal must be within 28 days of the original decision. The Magistrates' role is to stand in the position of VicRoads to make a decision. Outcome can be: decision affirmed, provide further information, change/amendment to original decision, or struck out.

- **Is there a guideline for monocular drivers with commercial licences? Is there a suggest period between reviews that can be recommend?**

Monocular drivers are not normally fit to hold a commercial licence. However, if the optometrist believes the person may be safe to drive, then a conditional licence may be considered by medical review.

For a commercial licence to be considered, the remaining eye must be better or equal to 6/9 and medical review will request binocular visual field charts to ensure the monocular driver has 140 degrees of vision in the horizontal axis. If these requirements are met, commercial licence would normally be granted, with other medical conditions also considered. Two yearly reviews are often requested.

- **Patients that receive a VicRoads letter requiring an updated vision report often have relatively short deadlines. Can we seek extensions?**

Customers are usually given eight weeks to provide an eyesight report and in many cases extensions of time to provide a report if requested.

- **When checking vision on the 6/12 line (on a five-letter chart), if a patient constantly gets one or two wrong, does the patient still pass the vision standards? Or does the patient have to get all five letters correct?**

Not all five letters have to be correct. As outlined in the AFTD guidelines on page 124 10.2.1: "More than two errors in reading the letter of any line is regarded as a failure to that line."

- **If we need to call VicRoads and request an urgent licence cancellation/suspension, what is the best number to call?**

You can call/contact either:

1. Medical Review team

Email: medicalreview@roads.vic.gov.au

Tel: 03 8391 3226 Fax : 03 9824 2307; OR

2. Medical Case Managers:

medicalcasemanagers@roads.vic.gov.au

Tel: 03 8391 3224

- **Are there any suggestion/examples for the type of conditions on licences when patient have borderline visual field binocular driving test?**

If a customer has borderline visual fields, examples of restrictions include: no night driving, area restriction, no freeway driving, no commercial driving. They should also be on at least annual review. This does also depend on their visual acuities and any other co-morbidities that the patient has.