

# HUNTINGTON'S VICTORIA

## INFORMATION SHEET 19

### Driving Assessment Advice



Throughout your experience with Huntington's Disease (HD) you may find that your driving abilities change. An Occupational Therapist who specialises in driving assessment can assist you. They will also be able to advise you about your driving and the options you may need to consider to ensure your safety.

#### Safe Driving With HD

VicRoads is responsible for ensuring that all drivers have appropriate driving skills. This helps to keep our roads as safe as possible. If you have a medical condition, including Huntington's Disease (HD), you are legally obligated to notify VicRoads of this condition.

If you continue to drive, without notifying Vic Roads of your HD, and you have an accident:

- You may be charged with driving offences and failing to notify VicRoads of your condition.
- You may be sued under common law.
- Your private insurance company may not cover your claim.

Even if you are an experienced driver, you may be asked to have an assessment because of concerns that your driving skills may be affected by your HD.

**An Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment will ensure that you can drive safely.**

## **Driver Assessment**

What does a driver assessment involve?

### **1. An off-road assessment**

During an off-road assessment you will be assessed on:

- Road laws
- Analysis of traffic situations
- Vision and hearing
- Reaction time
- Physical status
- Hazard perception

### **2. An on-road assessment**

The results of the off-road assessment will determine the need for an on-road assessment in a dual control driving instructors' vehicle.

The vehicle may be manual, automatic or have fitted adaptations.

The on-road assessment will take between 50-60 minutes. During this time the occupational therapist sits in the rear seat and assesses the effect, if any, of the disability or the driving.

The on-road assessment concentrates on:

- General observation
- Road-law knowledge
- Reaction time
- Planning and concentration skills
- Physical deficits
- Overall driver safety

### **What will happen after the assessment?**

- You need more lessons

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After your driver assessment with the Occupational Therapist one of the following outcomes will occur:

- You are deemed safe to drive
- Your car will need adaptations
- You will need to be re-tested
- You need a Specialist Assessment
- You are unsafe to drive but a review is required
- You will be issued a conditional licence
- Your licence will be cancelled

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How do I arrange my assessment?

You, your family, your doctor or anyone involved in your care may arrange an assessment by contacting a qualified occupational therapist. VicRoads can provide you with a list of qualified Occupational Therapists.

#### Can I choose my occupational therapist?

Yes, VicRoads can provide you with a list of occupational therapists that are qualified to conduct your assessment.

#### Can I do the assessment in my own car?

No. A special car with controls on both the driver's and passenger's side is used to ensure safety for the driver and other road users.

#### How much does it cost?

There is a cost for the on and off-road assessments. Driving Instructor cost is also met by the client.

RACV Brake Reaction Test is an extra cost if required.

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### What do I need to bring to my assessment?

- Medical Report and Drivers Licence
- Any equipment used for driving
- Payment for the assessment.

### What if I lose my licence?

If VicRoads suspends or cancels your licence because your driving is found to be unsafe, you will need to pass another driver assessment to regain your licence.

You may request an independent assessment by another qualified occupational therapist.

You have the right to ask Vic Roads to review its decision. You will be provided with advice on your legal rights.

### For further information please refer to:

Vic Roads

General Information ph: 13 11 71

Medical Review ph: 9854 2407

Mailing address: PO Box 2504, Kew 3101

Email: [ccslicence@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:ccslicence@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au)

### OT Australia – Victoria (Australian Association of Occupational Therapists Victoria)

ph: 9481 6866

- Huntington's Victoria Website at [www.huntingtonsvic.org.au](http://www.huntingtonsvic.org.au)
- Huntington's Victoria Information line  
Metro 03 9818 6333  
Toll free 1800 063 501
- Email Huntington's Victoria on: [info@huntingtonsvic.org.au](mailto:info@huntingtonsvic.org.au)