

## Medical Review Process

Under the Highway Traffic Act (s. 203 and 204) both physicians and optometrists are required to report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles:

- Any patient age 16 or over who may be suffering from a medical/visual condition that may impair driving ability

When a report is received by the ministry it is screened and prioritized according to risk to road safety. The medical information is assessed by applying the mandatory medical standards found in Regulation 340/94 under the *Highway Traffic Act* and the national medical standards:

- Canadian Medical Association's ***Determining Medical Fitness to Operate a Motor Vehicle***
- Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators' Medical ***Standards for Drivers***

When a decision is made to suspend a driving privilege, the ministry sends the individual,

- A formal Notice of Suspension by regular mail
- A letter which will advise what type of medical information is required to have the case considered for reinstatement

The driving privilege will be considered for reinstatement when the appropriate medical information is received and reviewed. If the report indicates that the medical standards are met, and there are no other outstanding suspensions on the driving record, the ministry sends the individual,

- A letter advising the outcome of the review and where applicable, a notice of reinstatement is mailed

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### ***Q1. Why did my doctor or optometrist report me?***

**A1.** Under the Highway Traffic Act (s. 203 and 204) physicians and optometrists are required to report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles any patient age 16 or over who may be suffering from a medical/visual condition that may impair driving ability.

### ***Q2. I don't have a driver's licence. Why was I reported?***

**A2.** Physicians are required to report any individual age 16 or over. This is to ensure that if you do decide to apply for a driver's licence, all the medical requirements will be addressed prior to a licence being issued.

### ***Q3. What happens when the ministry receives a report from my physician or optometrist?***

**A3.** When a report is received it is screened and prioritized in terms of risk to road safety. The medical information is assessed by applying the mandatory medical standards found in Regulation 340/94 under the *Highway Traffic Act* and the national medical standards.

### ***Q4. Why did the ministry suspend my licence? I feel fine.***

**A4.** If your medical report indicates that the medical standards for driving are not met your driver's licence will be suspended. A notice of suspension will be sent by mail. At the same time a letter will also be sent to you advising you of what type of medical information is required to have your case considered for reinstatement.

### ***Q5. When will my licence be reinstated?***

**A5.** Your driver's licence will be considered for reinstatement when the appropriate medical information is received and reviewed. If your report indicates that the medical standards are met, and there are no other outstanding suspensions on your driving record, a letter advising you of the outcome of the review and a notice of reinstatement will be mailed to you.\*

### ***Q6. Can I appeal the decision to suspend/downgrade my licence?***

**A6.** Under the Highway Traffic Act (s.50) you can appeal a medical suspension/downgrade of your driver's licence to the Licence Appeal Tribunal.

**Q7. My doctor said it's okay for me to drive now. When can I start driving?**

**A7.** The ministry makes the final decision regarding your driving. Incoming medical reports are prioritized according to the risk to road safety and by date received. They are processed on a "first come, first served" basis. Some cases are more complex and/or have technical test reports/results and require a review by the ministry's Medical Advisory Committee.

**Q8. How long does it take for my report to be reviewed?**

**A8.** Due to the complexity of some cases, your case will be reviewed within approximately 6 weeks.

**Q9. How long does it take before I can resume driving once my licence is reinstated?**

**A9.** Once your medical report is approved and entered on the ministry's database your driver's licence is reinstated. The actual licence card will take approximately 6 weeks however, in most cases a temporary driver's licence is attached to your reinstatement notice. The reinstatement notice will come in the mail a few days after your reinstatement is processed. You can visit your local Driver and Vehicle Issuing Office, pay the required fee and receive a temporary licence if you cannot wait to receive your reinstatement notice.\*

\* You are required to notify the ministry of any address changes.

**For more information visit:**

**[www.ontario.ca/driverimprovement](http://www.ontario.ca/driverimprovement)**

**or contact:**

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## Understanding the Driver's Licence Medical Review Process



Ministry of Transportation