

## Medical Reporting by Optometrists

### New Medical Reporting Requirements Effective July 1, 2018

Sections 203 and 204 of the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) have been amended to include a mandatory/discretionary reporting model. Strengthening medical reporting requirements in the HTA will enhance road safety and will clarify which high risk conditions must be reported.

#### What the law requires

Ontario has amended section 203 and 204 of the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) to introduce new mandatory reporting requirements for vision impairments.

Starting July 2018, optometrists **must** report the following vision conditions

- A best corrected visual acuity that is below 20/50
- A visual field that is less than 120 continuous degrees along the horizontal meridian, or less than 15 continuous degrees above and below fixation, or less than 60 degrees to either side of the vertical midline
- Diplopia that is within 40 degrees of fixation point (in all directions) of primary position

Optometrists will have the discretionary authority to report vision conditions that, in their opinion, make it dangerous for a person to drive using the discretionary section of the reporting form.

For more information about mandatory reporting requirements and discretionary reporting authority, see Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act*, section 203, and Ontario Regulation 340/94.

#### Reporting Form

The vision reporting form has been redesigned to facilitate the new reporting requirements and includes sections for reporting both mandatory and discretionary reports.

#### Download the form:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medically-unfit-driver.shtml>

#### The Review Process

Once a medical report is received the ministry may

- Request additional information
- Suspend or downgrade driving privileges
- Approve (with or without a follow up report)

When a licence is suspended or when more information is required, your patient will receive a letter advising of what is required to reconsider their case.

#### Medical Standards

The ministry continues to assess driver fitness against national medical standards developed by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators. These standards are used by licensing authorities across Canada to assess driver fitness and are the basis of the Canada/US medical reciprocity agreement for commercial drivers.

#### Visual Field Charts

The ministry may require visual field charts to make an informed decision regarding licensing status. Acceptable visual field charts are

- Esterman binocular functional test (false positive/negative errors not to exceed 20 per cent)
- Goldmann binocular field test using only a III4e test object with monitored reliability showing at least 60 degrees to either side of the vertical midline and showing 15 degrees both above and below the horizontal midline

Automated kinetic Octopus charts with monitored reliability are also acceptable.

#### Vision Waiver Program

Introduced in 2005, the Class G vision waiver program is for drivers whose visual field does not meet the 120 degree requirement.

Once it is determined that your patient meets the eligibility requirements for the program, they will be asked to submit a detailed vision assessment and a medical report. If approved, they will undergo a functional driving assessment with an occupational therapist and specially trained driving instructor. The driver is responsible for all costs associated with the assessment process.