

The Medical Review Process

Medical Reporting by Healthcare Practitioners

The *Highway Traffic Act* requires physicians, optometrists and nurse practitioners in Ontario to report to the ministry patients age 16 or over who have certain medical or visual conditions that may make it dangerous to drive. In addition, physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists have the discretion to also report patients who, in their opinion, have a condition that may make it dangerous to drive.

What the law requires

Under sections 203 and 204 of Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA), physicians, optometrists and nurse practitioners are required to report certain high risk medical conditions, vision conditions and functional impairments to the Ministry of Transportation.

The HTA also gives physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists discretionary authority to report any other condition that may make it dangerous to drive.

The Review Process

Once a report is matched to the correct driving record, the review process is underway. Reports are assessed against Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators national medical standards. If the medical report indicates that you do not meet the required medical standards for the class of licence you hold, your licence may be downgraded or suspended.

Additional Medical Information

In cases where the medical information is not clear or where more information may be necessary, you will be given the opportunity to submit additional medical information. In most cases you will be sent a form to have completed by your physician or nurse practitioner. You need to submit that information by the due date provided in the letter you receive from the ministry, otherwise your licence will be suspended.

Reinstating a licence

If your licence has been suspended, you will be considered for reinstatement when the ministry has received and reviewed the appropriate medical information.

The ministry processes medical reports on a first come, first served basis. Cases are reviewed within 30 business days. More time may be required if more information has been requested. You will receive a letter advising you of the outcome of the review.

Your licence will be reinstated if

- Your report indicates that you meet the medical standards to drive, and
- There are no other outstanding suspensions or requirements on your driving record

You will receive a reinstatement notice in the mail. In most cases a temporary driver's licence will be attached to your reinstatement notice. Expired medical suspensions will not appear on the publicly-available three-year driver's abstract.

Appeal Procedures

All medical licence suspensions, except suspensions for failing to meet mandatory vision standards, can be appealed to the *Licence Appeal Tribunal*.

For more information on the appeal process, including details on making an appeal, you can contact the Tribunal by calling (416) 327-6500 or 1-844-242-0608 (toll free). You can also visit the Tribunal's web site at www.slsto-tsapno.gov.on.ca.

Most ministry forms can be completed by a physician or nurse practitioner licensed to practice in Ontario. Once completed, forms should be returned **by the due date** indicated in your letter to:

Driver Improvement Office, Medical Review Section
77 Wellesley St. W Box 589
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
FAX: 416-235-3400 or 1-800-304-7889

For more information on the medical review process and the national medical standards, please visit <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medical-review.shtm>