



Interpreting the DriveABLE™ Assessment Report

In discussing the report with clients, patients, or families, it is important to keep in mind the strong possibility that the driver's insight may be compromised. It is not unusual for medically impaired drivers to fail to recognize even very severe driving errors at the time they are committed. Note also that, while the change in mobility is important for drivers who must stop driving, research has shown that the loss of self-esteem and declining competence may be the most salient issue for the driver.

The DriveABLE™ In-Office Assessment

The in-office assessment consists of six tasks. The assessment has been validated through research to be highly predictive of actual driving performance. The tasks have different weightings in the scoring algorithm. Performance scores on each task are presented in table form in the report, providing a quantitative measure (T-score; number of standard deviations above or below the normative mean) and as well as a verbal description of performance. A trained professional assisted the driver throughout the assessment. The assessment was presented on a computer monitor equipped with a touch sensitive screen. The client needed only to touch the screen or press a button to respond. Computer experience is not relevant. Performance is compared against normative data of persons their own age.

Overall Performance Measure:

Fail: Mental abilities necessary for safe driving are significantly compromised and outside the range of normal, healthy drivers who pass the DriveABLE™ on-road assessment.

In-determinant: Mental abilities for driving may be reduced, but overall scores are neither sufficiently high nor low to make a recommendation based solely on the In-Office Assessment. The DriveABLE™ On-Road Evaluation is required to resolve driving competency.

Pass: The overall performance did not indicate mental abilities for driving are outside the range of normal, healthy drivers.

The DriveABLE™ Road Evaluation

The on-road evaluation uses a (standardized) road course and performance evaluation criteria developed through scientific research. The road course is designed to incorporate attributes demonstrated through the research to reveal significant driving problems in medically compromised drivers. The road course is standardized for level of difficulty. The evaluation has been demonstrated to be equally fair for urban and rural drivers. Driving performance is normed against healthy competent drivers. Only driving errors shown by the research to be associated with competence declines of medically impaired drivers are scored and listed in the report. The driving errors listed may differ in severity. If the same error was committed multiple times, this is relevant. Errors that would place the driver or others in immediate danger of a crash are indicted as errors creating a hazardous situation. Increasing frequency and severity of all other driving errors listed in the report have been demonstrated through the research to be related to the occurrence of a hazardous driving error.

Fail: The number, kind, and/or severity of errors made during the on-road evaluation are outside the range of normal, healthy drivers as defined by the research. Errors listed are significant and often hazardous. Continued driving may be high risk and may result in injury to the individual or other road users.

Pass with errors toward upper end of normal: The driving errors made during the on-road evaluation are toward the upper end, but did not exceed, the range for normal healthy drivers. The amount of acceptable risk taking into account the medical profile should be considered. Reassessment in six months time or sooner is strongly recommended if medical status or function changes.

Pass with low or poor evaluator ratings: In some cases, few or no significant driving errors may have been made on the road evaluation and, despite the lack of explicit errors, the evaluator rated the driver's performance in the low or poor range. DriveABLE does not fail drivers based on subjective ratings, but note this in case the information may be of relevance in reviewing driver's overall medical and other information. The amount of acceptable risk, taking into account the medical profile, should be considered. Reassessment in six months time, or sooner if medical status or function changes, is strongly recommended.

Pass: Performance on the road evaluation was within the range of normal healthy drivers as defined through the research. Driving cessation is not indicated. Reassessment is recommended if the driver's medical status declines.