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Drivers with Diabetes (Class 5-8 Licence)

Why Drivers With Diabetes Submit Medical Reports

Under the Motor Vehicle Act, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles has the responsibility for determining the fitness to drive of people who hold or are applying for a British Columbia driver's licence. Drivers who have a medical condition that has the potential to affect their fitness to drive may be required to have their doctor complete a *Driver's Medical Examination* report. A driver's medical examination is one tool that provides the Superintendent with the information needed to decide whether someone is fit to drive.

Diabetes is a progressive condition that can affect a person's fitness to drive.

Insulin and oral medications used to treat diabetes can cause low blood sugar, which may result in a sudden loss of consciousness or alteration of consciousness. As well, the long term complications of diabetes may result in vision changes, heart disease, nervous system disease, and others, all of which can affect driving fitness.

The procedures we follow to collect information about the severity, progression, treatment or effects of diabetes with respect to driving are outlined below. In many cases, diabetes does not have an impact on a person's fitness to drive. However, as each person is affected by diabetes differently, the information we request allows us to assess each diabetic driver individually.

The Requirements

The type and frequency of assessment and follow up by the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV) varies depending on the class of driver's licence held or applied for, as well as the type and control of diabetes.

Under our policy and medical guidelines, if you hold or are applying for a Class 5 - 8 British Columbia driver's licence and have diabetes, you will be asked to have an initial *Driver's Medical Examination* report completed and submitted by your doctor to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles. A follow up medical in one year is required so we may obtain information to assess your control of diabetes and to establish a baseline for future medical examinations.

We mail the required form to you. If your doctor indicates in the one year follow up assessment that you have maintained good control, you will next be asked to submit a driver's medical examination report every five years as long as your condition remains controlled. Medical information may be requested more frequently if your doctor indicates your diabetes is unstable or if you have other conditions that may affect driving.

Please note that you should not drive any time your blood glucose is below 6 mmol/l as you could have a hypoglycemic episode.

For more information . . .

call the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles in Victoria at (250) 387-7747.

