



Medical Review Unit RaDAR – November 2022

**Tracy Piller, Manager
SGI's Medical Review Unit**



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The Medical Review Unit (MRU)

- Staffed with Registered Nurses and administrative support staff
- Administer legislation (Traffic Safety Act)
- Division of the Auto Fund (responsible for licensing drivers in Saskatchewan)
- SGI safety program



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MRU Goals and responsibilities

- The MRU works to ensure that all Saskatchewan driver's have the medical fitness and the skills necessary to operate a vehicle safely.
- The unit tries to strike a balance between an individual's transportation needs and the public's right to expect a reasonable level of road safety.
- Use standards set out by Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Canadian Council of Motor Transportation Administrators (CCMTA).



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Reporting to the MRU

How do we find out about drivers with medical conditions or skill deficits?

Triggers to start a medical investigation:

1. Driver self reports their medical condition

- It is every driver's responsibility to report a medical condition to SGI.
- Should report when driver's licence is renewed, when first diagnosed or a change in medical condition.
- Failure to report could result in no insurance coverage.
- Driver completes a Supplementary Medical Application, which can be obtained at an SGI licence issuer, online or by contacting MRU
- If necessary, MRU requests a medical to be completed by physician within 60 days



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Supplementary Medical Application (for your patient to fill out)



Supplementary Medical Application

Medical Review Unit - 3rd Floor
2260- 11th Ave., Regina, SK S4P 2N7
Phone: 1-800-667-9015 ext. 6176
Local Phone Number: 775-6176
Toll Free Fax: 1-866-274-4417
or: 347-2577
email: mruinquiries@regi.sk.ca

Last Name		First		Middle Initial		Male <input type="checkbox"/>
						Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Number & Street or Box Number			Town/City		Prov	Postal Code
Driver's Licence Number	Birth Date	Month	Day	Year	Telephone Number Home:	
					Business:	
Present Class of Licence:				Class of driver's licence being applied for (if different than present class):		

Medical Information

Give particulars of the health condition(s):

Has this condition been previously reported ? Yes No

If yes, has there been any change in that condition ? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Physician's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

For the purposes of determining my eligibility to obtain or continue holding a driver's licence, I authorize any physician to release to Saskatchewan Government Insurance, all medical information concerning the above noted health condition(s), including all reports, memoranda, clinical notes, test results, correspondence and any other documentary information relative to my care and treatment.

This authorization shall be in effect for a period of one year from the date of execution and a photocopy of this document shall be treated as an original.

I declare that all information is true and correct and I understand a false declaration could result in loss of insurance coverage.
*Note: You may be required to provide medical reports.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

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Practitioner Reporting

2. Physicians/Optometrists/Psychologist/OT/NP

- Are required under 283 of the Traffic Safety Act to report drivers with a medical condition that, in their opinion, will make it unsafe for the individual to drive.
- Information may be kept confidential.
- If it indicates that the driver has a medical condition and should not be driving, MRU can suspend the driver giving 14 days notice. (the source could not remain confidential in this case).



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Medical Reporting Form

Medical Reporting Form



Medical Review Unit
3rd Floor, 2260 - 11th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0J9

Phone: 1-800-667-8015 Ext. 6176
Fax: Toll Free: 1-866-274-4417
e-mail: mrinquiries@sgi.sk.ca

Please complete this form and forward to SGI by mail, fax or email - see above.

Section 283 of the Traffic Safety Act requires that any duly qualified medical practitioner shall report to SGI the name, address and clinical condition of every person who, "in the opinion of the medical practitioner, is suffering from a condition that will make a dangerous for that person to operate a vehicle". To simplify the reporting process, SGI has created this form.

PATIENT INFORMATION:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth		
			DD	MM	YYYY
Street Number & Name or P.O. Box Number		Town/City	Postal Code		

This patient's medical fitness to drive should be assessed due to the following medical condition(s). Please give a brief description of the medical condition and date of occurrence if applicable:

Has patient been referred for further assessment? Yes No

If yes, type: _____

Please Indicate:

Physician Optometrist NP OT

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____ Date of Exam: _____
DD MM YYYY DD MM YYYY

May the Medical Review Unit inform the driver that you have provided this information? Yes No
(Please note: if confidentiality is not indicated, the information will be released to the driver).

3148-6

06/2012



Take care out there.

Additional Reporting

3. Other reports

- Concerned citizens (includes family)
- Law Enforcement
- Driver Evaluation/Assessment programs
- Health Care professionals
- Driver Examiners
- SGI adjusters
- Commercial Driver Program



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Additional Reporting



Confidential Reporting Form - Private Citizen

Forms completed/submitted by medical practitioners and/or medical offices will **not** be kept confidential unless requested by sender

SGI
 Medical Review Unit - 3rd Floor
 2260-11th Ave
 Regina, SK S4P 0J9
 Phone: 1-800-667-8015 ext. 6176
 Fax: 1-866-274-4417
 email: mruinquiries@sgi.sk.ca

Customer Name: _____
 Customer Number (if known): _____ Date of Birth or Age: _____
 Address: _____

Please describe, in detail, the reason(s) that you feel SGI's Medical Review Unit should further investigate the individual's medical fitness to drive. Please include specific examples, incidents and/or symptoms:

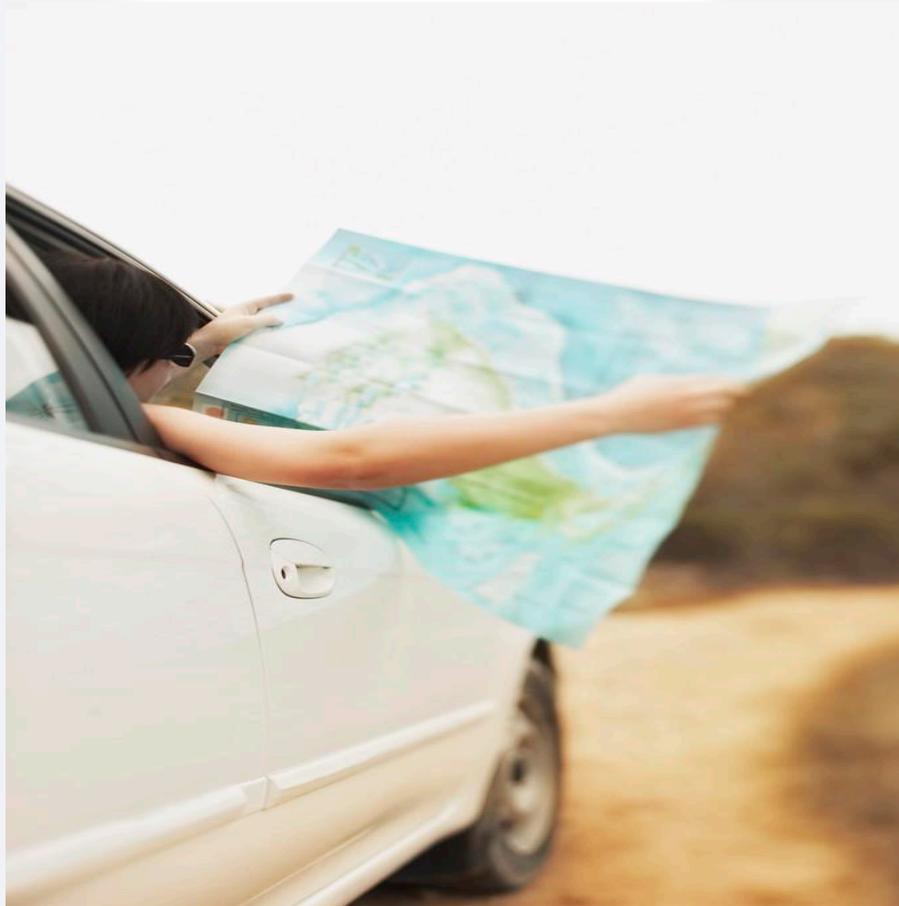
Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

- Concerned citizens/general public which includes family, friends, etc.
- Will not act on a licence plate.



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What Happens next?



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Medical Process

- An SGI Medical report is requested in most cases (SGI pays for the medical)
- Due date of 30 days, and failure to comply results in suspension
- If suspending due to medical reasons the MRU will give 14-day notice to driver
- Driver can appeal MRU decisions to the Highway Traffic Board



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Medical Process

The nurse reviewing will determine/decide:

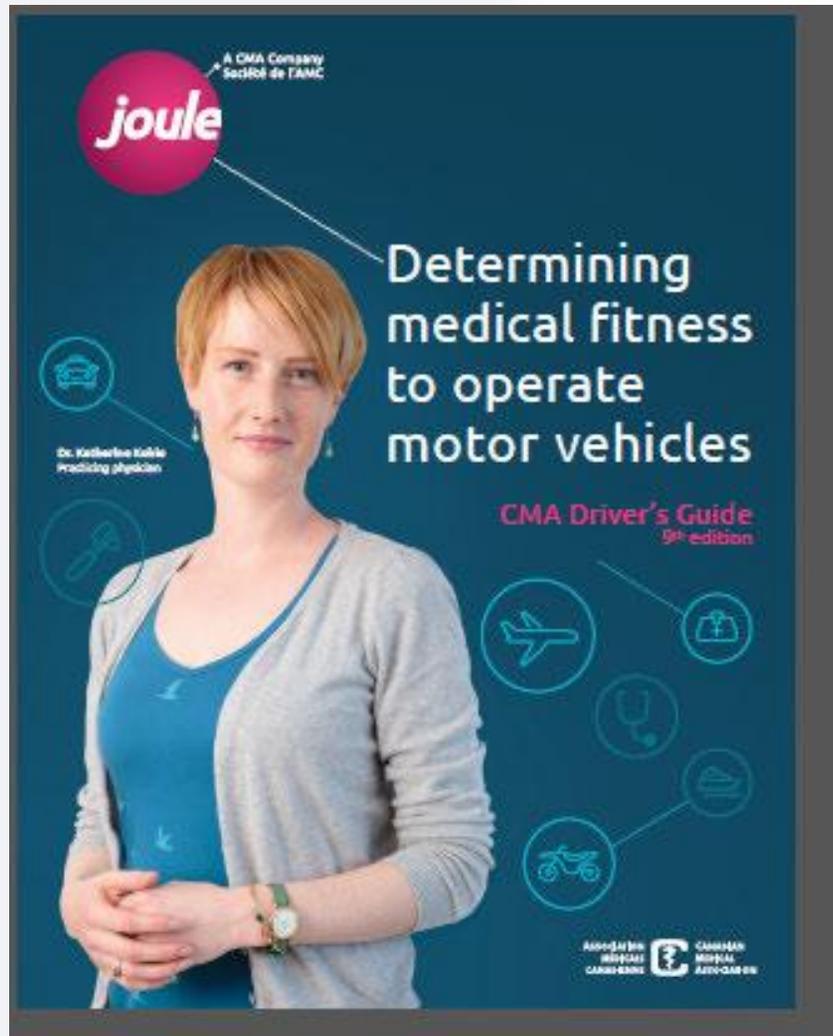
- Satisfactory report
- More medical information necessary (vision, follow-up form)
- Periodic Review (progressive diseases)
- Driver Ability Assessment (SGI in-vehicle assessment)
- Provincial Driver Assessment Program (Regina/Saskatoon)
- Addiction Screening
- Suspension

* Please note, the DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment (DCAT) is no longer used by SGI to review or assess SK drivers



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When do you report to SGI?



- Guidelines for determining medical fitness to drive, available through CMA and Content intended for Health Care Practitioners
[CMA-Guide-9.1-Determining medical fitness to operate motor vehicles](#)
- CCMTA standards – intended for Canadian Administration programs
[CCMTA - Determining Driver Fitness in Canada](#)



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Dementia and Driving

CMA edition 9.1

Dementia and mild cognitive impairment

Section 8 – alert box

- **Cognitive screening alone cannot be used to determine fitness to drive.**

- **If a patient's fitness to drive is unclear, the physician should recommend an on-road assessment.**

The logo for SGI (Saskatchewan Geriatric Institute) features the letters 'SGI' in a bold, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the letters are four vertical bars of increasing height, colored in a gradient from green to yellow.

Take care out there.

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Dementia and Driving

Canadian Dementia Guidelines CMA 8.2 pg. 35)

- Diagnosis of dementia is not sufficient to withdraw driving privileges.
- Moderate to severe dementia is a contraindication to driving.
- Driving contraindicated if inability to independently perform IADL's
- No test, including MMSE can determine safe driving, however, the abnormalities on tests should trigger further assessment of driving ability
- Mild dementia may still be able to drive (should be reevaluated every 6-12 months or as needed)



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When do you report to SGI?

CMA 8.3 - Reporting according to stage of dementia

- Moderate to Severe should be reported
- No specific guidelines on *when* drivers with mild dementia should be reported
- Loss of one or more ADL or two or more IADL?
- Any abnormality on cognitive testing should trigger further in-depth functional driving assessment
- Consider other combined effects of other medical conditions, medication, etc.



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Red flags – the 3 Rs to consider

The following flags should trigger screening and evaluation of fitness to drive:

- Record – care giver reports concerns regarding driving safety, unexplained damage to vehicle, moving violations, crashes or near crashes
- Recent crashes – reported by patient
- Restrictions – of driving to less complex situations

These indicators point to difficulties with driving, and need to be investigated and assessed.



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In-Office Screening tools

- MMSE, Clock drawing, Trail A, Trail B, MoCA, etc.
- It is recommended that more than one cognitive test be completed
- No test, including the MMSE, can determine driving ability
- Ask your patient if they are still driving and how they think they are doing
- Review driving history with family (near misses, getting lost, etc)
- “Gold standard” is a comprehensive driving (off-and-on-road evaluation)
- Remember: loss of 2 or more IADL or 1 ADL



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CANDRIVE – Fitness-to-Drive Assessment Mnemonic

C	Cognition	Dementia, delirium, depression, executive function, memory, judgment, psychomotor speed, attention, reaction time, and visuospatial function
A	Acute or fluctuating illness	Delirium, seizures, Parkinson disease, and syncope or presyncope (cardiac ischemia, arrhythmia, postural hypotension)
N	Neuromusculo-skeletal disease or neurological effects	Speed of movement, speed of mentation, level of consciousness, stroke, Parkinson disease, syncope, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, arthritis, cervical arthritis, and spinal stenosis
D	Drugs	Drugs that effect cognition or speed of mentation, such as benzodiazepines, narcotics, anticholinergic medications (e.g., tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, oxybutynin, dimenhydrinate), and antihistamines
R	Record	Patient or family report of accidents or moving violations
I	In-car experiences	Patient or family descriptions of near accidents, unexplained damage to car, change in driving skills, loss of confidence or self-restriction, becoming lost while driving, others refusing to be driven by patient, need for assistance of a copilot (particularly concerning would be the need for cues to avoid dangerous situations that could result in a crash), and other drivers having to drive defensively to accommodate changes in the patient's driving skills
V	Vision acuity	Visual field defects, glare, contrast sensitivity, comfort driving at night
E	Ethanol use	Physician's opinion regarding whether ethanol use is excessive and whether alcohol is imbibed before driving

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MRU's Decisions Regarding Driving

Mild dementia

- Request or suspend until DAA
- if successful monitor every 6 months or Yearly

Moderate dementia

- Suspend until Driver Evaluation
- if successful monitor every 6 months



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Cognitive Assessment Form



Cognitive Assessment Report **SGI**

Not pay the complete cost for requested medical reports, billing code 143. Fee will not be charged an additional fee by your practitioner.

Please print:

Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2260 19th Ave., Regina, SK S4P 2G7
Tel: Fax: 306-342-4111 ext. 4115
Lodge Phone Number: 306-774-0174
Tel: Fax: 1-800-271-1177 or 306-342-2077
www.ruraldementia.ca

Part 1 - Customer Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth
			DD MM YYYY
Address		Customer Number	Class of Licence

Driver's Certificate and Waiver
I certify that the information I have given in this report, to the best of my knowledge, is correct and complete. I agree to allow my practitioner to forward this report directly to the Auto Fund Offices. I also understand that any driver's license issued to me may be withdrawn if I do not meet the medical requirements for the license.

Customer signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Phone: _____

Part 2 - Practitioner Information

Name and contact information: _____ Designation: Physician
 Nurse Practitioner
 Occupational Therapist

Patient is my care since: _____

Part 3 - Assessment Information Please address the following points to the best of your ability:

Cognitive Diagnosis and onset: _____

Related treatment and/or medication: _____

Is the impairment expected to be temporary (likely to resolve in 3-6 months)? Yes No Unknown

Could current medication / treatment result in:
 Delirium or Psychomotor slowing
 Impairment of Concentration/Memory
 Impairment of Judgment
 Stunned or Double Vision

Has your patient been referred for further assessment? Yes No
Type: _____

Additional medical conditions? (please list): _____

Related treatments/medications? (please list): _____

Cognitive screening test(s) conducted (e.g. MMSE, MoCA, Trail A, Trail B, Clock Drawing, FAS, etc.) Yes No (include results with form)

Additional comments to take into consideration: _____

Thank you for completing this report, the information will be reviewed with our customer's file and a financing decision will be made.

Practitioner signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

001 16/01/14

- SGI form implemented in 2016
- MRU will send it to customer for more info about their degree of cognitive impairment
- Completed form to be sent back to MRU and determine next steps such as assessment with an SGI in-vehicle assessment, a comprehensive OT-based program, etc.



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SGL Driver Ability Assessment (DAA)

- Completed by SGL Driver Evaluators, they are not conducted as a test
 - no scoring
 - consistent on-road evaluations
 - individual evaluation of function ability and ability to compensate for medical condition
- Flexibility to grant appropriate restricted driving privileges,
- Used for mild dementia
- Driver uses own vehicle
- Cost to drivers



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Provincial Driver Assessment Programs

- Regina Driver Assessment Program and Saskatoon Driver Evaluation Program
- Completed by Occupational Therapist and Driver Educator
- Highly specialized comprehensive assessment
- In-house and in-vehicle
- Enables flexibility to consider restricted driving privileges
- Fee for service



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DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment Tool (DCAT)

*Please note, SGI does not currently use the findings of assessments carried out through the DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment Tool (DCAT) when determining medical fitness to drive.



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Medical Reporting Form

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3rd Floor, 2260 - 11th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0J9

Phone: 1-800-667-8015 Ext. 6176
Fax: Toll Free: 1-866-274-4417
e-mail: mruinquiries@sgi.sk.ca

Please complete this form and forward to SGI by mail, fax or email - see above.

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Has patient been referred for further assessment? Yes No

If yes, type: _____

Please indicate:

Physician Optometrist NP OT

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____ Date of Exam: _____

DD MM YYYY DD MM YYYY

May the Medical Review Unit inform the driver that you have provided this information? Yes No
(Please note: if confidentiality is not indicated, the information will be released to the driver).

3148-6 06/2012

- A diagnosis alone does not provide enough information, it is not enough to determine medical fitness to drive
- Confidentiality limits timeliness and scope of licensing decisions


Take care out there.

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Helpful Supporting Information

Medical Reporting Form 

Medical Review Unit
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Regina, SK S4P 0J9

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If yes, type: _____

Please Indicate:
 Physician Optometrist NP OT

Name: _____ Signature: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Email: _____
 Date: _____ Date of Exam: _____
 DD MM YYYY DD MM YYYY

May the Medical Review Unit inform the driver that you have provided this information? Yes No
 (Please note: if confidentiality is not indicated, the information will be released to the driver).

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Provide relevant medical information

- Diagnosis
- Is it temporary or permanent
- Degree – mild, moderate, severe
- ADL's or IADL's
- Family concerns
- Cognitive tests results
- Opinion on driving (helpful, but not necessary)



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Case Study

93-year-old Jean, lives in big city

2015

- Came to MRU's attention by claim's report, "insured had mini stroke while driving"
- Medical rec'd – bradycardia causing syncope, needs pacemaker (no cognitive changes noted) Macular degeneration
- MRU suspended until medical stating pacemaker, no more syncope

2016

- MRU rec'd medical and vision reports, safe to drive suspension lifted
- On Medical report, physician stated suggest daytime licence and she restricts her driving to get groceries (no cognitive testing completed)
- MRU requests DAA and she passes, restrictions added "Can only drive in local area (on DAA failed to observe construction signs, went into wrong lane"

2017/2018

- periodic medicals & visions good, no cognitive changes noted



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Case Study *(continued)*

2019

- Physician report to MRU – 95 yr old involved in MVC, physician concerned about driving fitness, your assessment would be appreciated
- MRU requested follow up medical info, a different physician completes the form, states no driving due to MVC, lost way on road (no cognitive changes noted)
- OT sends mandatory report – patient assessed following MVC, Trail B impaired but didn't wear glasses. Difficult recall of patterns, has insight to the difficult task. Further cognitive and visual exam recommended
- Claims report, driver in MVC which happened outside of her area restriction
- Police report rec'd – driver caused a head on collision with possible fatalities



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No One Likes to Talk About Driving

- Patients are afraid they will lose their license
- Families are afraid about ... person's loss of QOL, depression, and being subjected to anger, blame and guilt
- Practitioners may be hesitant to talk about driving, concern that it may harm their relationship with their patient
- However, it is in your patient's best interest and not talking about driving is not an option



SGI |||||
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Conclusions

- Dementia is associated with increased crash risk
- Number of older drivers with dementia are increasing rapidly
- Some drivers with mild dementia remain safe to drive. These individuals require individual assessment of driving safety
- In-office assessment can help identify those who may be at higher risk and who need additional assessment
- Specialized assessment for both off- and on-road driving is considered “gold standard”



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Contact Information

SGI Medical Review Unit

5104 Donnelly Crescent

Regina, Saskatchewan S4X 4C9

Call: 306-775-6176 (Regina) or 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744) ext 6176

Fax: 306-347-2577 (Regina) or 1-800-274-4417 (toll free)

email: mruinquiries@sgi.sk.ca

SGI's general website

www.sgi.sk.ca (navigate from "Individuals" tab and select Medical conditions)

** Medical forms for practitioners are not available on SGI's public website

Manager - SGI Medical Review Unit

Tracy Piller, RN

email: tpiller@sgi.sk.ca Regina, call: 306-751-6815

Toll free, call 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744 ext 6815)



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