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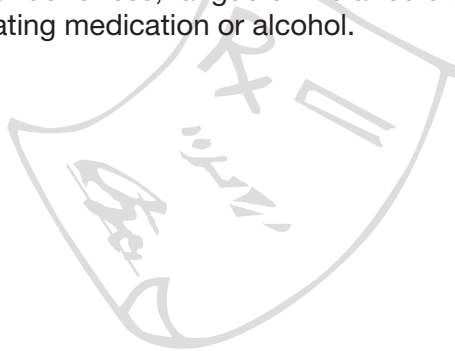
What can I do if I don't agree with DMV's decision?

A.

You can request a hearing and appeal your case in person to the Medical Review Board, a group of physicians specialized in evaluating medical conditions which affect a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. At this time you can present other information such as affidavits by other doctors, testimony by witnesses and if you like, you may be represented by legal counsel.

Important points to remember

Being in the DME program is not a punishment, nor is it meant to be unfair. Driving in North Carolina is a privilege, and in order to protect that privilege for other North Carolina drivers, DMV has the authority to determine if you are medically "fit" for the privilege of driving. Understanding your medical condition and taking your medications as prescribed are the best ways for you to control further problems when driving. Never drive if you feel symptoms of your condition or if you are under stress, fatigue or the affects of sedating medication or alcohol.



Questions or Comments?
Write or Call:



Division of Motor Vehicles
Driver Medical Evaluation
North Carolina Department of Transportation
3112 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3112
(919) 861-3809



The
North
Carolina
Driver Medical
Evaluation
Program

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What is the N.C. Driver Medical Evaluation Program?

A. The Driver Medical Evaluation (DME) program is administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), with medical counsel and individual case recommendations provided by physicians and physician extenders within the Highway Safety Scientific Services Section of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Drivers can be referred to DMV by concerned physicians, family members, driver license examiners and law enforcement officers. As a driver, you may be asked to have your personal physician provide information on your medical condition for review by the medical professionals at DHHS and final licensing decision by DMV.



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Why are certain medical conditions important to DMV?

A. Injury is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, and most injury deaths result from motor vehicle accidents. In 2008, there were 214,226 vehicular crashes with 112,348 injuries and 1,448 deaths across North Carolina. Medical conditions which affect a person's ability to drive account for about half of all crashes resulting in serious injury or death. Because of this, all 50 states have chosen to restrict or revoke driver licenses on the basis of certain medical conditions by means of a DME program.



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What medical conditions are important to DMV?

A. DMV and DHHS are concerned about your safety if you are experiencing medical problems while driving that put you at risk for a motor vehicle crash. In addition, DMV is concerned about the safety of other drivers on the road if you have a motor vehicle crash. DMV needs to know if you are experiencing medical problems such as:

- seizures;
- diabetes or blood sugar problems with loss of consciousness spells;
- blackouts;
- visual problems (such as cataracts or glaucoma);
- neuromuscular disorders (such as Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis);
- sleep disorders (such as narcolepsy);
- serious respiratory conditions requiring oxygen;
- heart problems (such as irregular rhythms and uncontrolled high blood pressure);
- a recent stroke;
- dementia (such as Alzheimer's);
- mental illnesses (such as schizophrenia); and/or
- substance abuse disorders (such as alcoholism)



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Will I automatically lose my driver license when I get put on the DME program?

A. No, in most cases while you are being evaluated by your physician, you may continue driving as usual. After your doctor completes the DMV forms, DMV may choose to restrict your driving privileges to certain speeds, distances or certain times of day to protect you and other drivers around you, or they may decide you cannot operate a motor vehicle until your medical condition improves. They may require you to have another medical report form completed by your physician in six months to five years later to make sure your medical condition is being controlled in regards to driving.



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How can I be released from the medical program?

A. A medical evaluation may indicate that your medical condition has improved, or been brought under control, to the point that you can safely operate a motor vehicle. Certain medical conditions have key factors that medical evaluators review to determine whether the customer should be released from the program. In these circumstances, you may be released from the program, at which point you may renew your license like any other North Carolina Driver.