

RIKC Driving Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When can you see me/my family member for a driving evaluation?

A: In order to assess a participant's individual needs, we have required paperwork that will need to be processed prior to scheduling a driving assessment. The paperwork will include a medical prescription form for the participant's physician to complete. Please contact Jackie Martin at 816-751-7782 to initiate the referral process.

Q: How can you help me/my family member obtain a permit and/or driver's license?

A: Our driving program is not a part of the State Department of Motor Vehicles. Individuals who need accommodations to take the written test to obtain a driver's permit should contact that office directly to confirm what accommodations are available. When individuals have had their licenses expire or revoked and require medical documentation for their licenses to be reinstated, our driving program may be able to assist with the documentation needed to have a temporary stay of their licenses prior to our assessment of current driving safety. Specific details of the license situation should be discussed at the time the referral is initiated.

Q: What is involved in a driving evaluation?

A: Participants are typically seen for a three hour clinical and behind-the-wheel driving assessment. The clinical portion will focus on the participant's medical and driving history, upper and lower extremity functions, reaction time, visual assessment (such as depth perception, scanning and field of vision, etc.), and cognitive skills (such as problem solving/decision making, reading comprehension, traffic sign recognition, left/right concepts, etc.).

The behind-the-wheel session will be performed in our driving program vehicles. Areas assessed may include the ability to transfer in and out of the vehicle, adaptive equipment needs, basic control of the vehicle, lane position, speed control, awareness of traffic signs as well as other processing and decision making skills. The in-vehicle assessment typically begins in a parking lot and will progress into residential, commercial and interstate areas as safety allows and only if these are traffic areas where the participant would normally be driving. There are occasions when an additional extended behind-the-wheel driving assessment may be needed to allow our driving specialist to gather all the information needed to make recommendations. There would be an additional charge involved if that is the case.

Q: What is involved in driving training?

A: Depending on results of the assessment described above, a recommendation may be made for additional behind-the-wheel driving sessions, particularly if adapted equipment has been recommended. Unless specifically suggested by our driving specialists, the driving sessions will start and end at our facility. There will be an additional charge for the driving training sessions.

Q: How much does a driving evaluation and driving training cost?

A: Once the driving program referral has been initiated, information regarding the current charges will be addressed.

Q: Does medical insurance cover your driving program charges?

A: We are not able to bill to Medicare, Medicaid or other commercial insurance for this specialized driving program as driving is not considered a medical necessity. However, other funding resources can be discussed once the referral has been initiated.

Q: What do I need to do to prepare/practice before doing a driving evaluation?

A: Individuals may find it helpful to review their current State driving rules and regulations prior to being seen for a driving evaluation. However, the focus of our specialized driving program is the medical reason participants come to us. We are not a part of the State Department of Motor Vehicle Office or a standard driver's education program.

Q: Do I drive my vehicle?

A: No, participants will use our program vehicles for the driving evaluation and other behind-the-wheel driving training sessions. However, if our driving specialist makes a recommendation for a participant to have his or her personal vehicle adapted, the final stage of our program will include an in-vehicle check using the participant's adapted vehicle.

Q: Can the driving evaluation and/or driving training be done at my or my family's home? If so, is there any additional charge?

A: All clinical and behind-the-wheel driving evaluations are completed at our facility. Typically additional behind-the-wheel driving training sessions also start and end at our facility. However, there are occasions when our driving specialists may recommend behind-the-wheel driving sessions be initiated in the participants' familiar driving areas. This is on a case-by-case situation. There is an additional charge for travel from our facility to the off-site destination based upon the mileage involved. Those particulars will be addressed at the time our travel commitment is made.

Q: Will I get a certificate of completion once I have passed your driving program?

A: Once a participant completes the services of our driving program, a narrative report with specific recommendations will be forwarded to the referring physician. An actual certificate of completion is not the focal point of our driving program.

Q: Does your driving program charge cover equipment to adapt my vehicle?

A: Our charges are specific to the services provided by our program. We do not provide or install adaptive equipment. Our driving specialists will assist participants in locating vehicle modification companies.