

## Medical Reporting by Healthcare Practitioners

### New Medical Reporting Requirements Effective July 1, 2018

Section 203 of the *Highway Traffic Act* (HTA) has been amended to strengthen the medical review program by adding a discretionary reporting authority to Ontario's mandatory medical reporting program. Strengthening medical reporting requirements under the HTA will enhance road safety and clarify which conditions healthcare practitioners are required to report.

#### What the law requires

Starting in July 2018, medical reporting requirements for healthcare practitioners have changed.

Under section 203 of the *Highway Traffic Act*, mandatory reporting requirements for high risk medical conditions, vision conditions and functional impairments that make it dangerous for a person to drive apply to

- Physicians
- Optometrists
- Nurse Practitioners

Starting July 2018, physicians, optometrists, nurse practitioners and occupational therapists will have the discretionary authority to report conditions that, in the opinion of the healthcare practitioner, make it dangerous for a person to drive.

For more information about mandatory reporting requirements and discretionary reporting authority, see Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act*, section 203, and Ontario Regulation 340/94.

#### New Reporting Form

The Ministry of Transportation has developed a standardized reporting form for healthcare practitioners to use when reporting potentially unfit patients.

The new form should be used for both mandatory and discretionary reports. **A licence suspension will be issued where a mandatory condition is ticked.**

#### Download the Form:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medically-unfit-driver-physicians.shtml>



#### The Review Process

Once a medical report is received the ministry may:

- Request additional information
- Suspend or downgrade driving privileges
- Approve (with or without a follow up report)

When a licence is suspended or when more information is required, your patient will receive a letter advising of what is required to reconsider their case.

The ministry processes medical reports on a first come, first served basis. Cases are reviewed within 30 business days but most take less time. It may take longer to review a case if your patient has been asked to provide additional information.

#### Medical Standards

The ministry continues to assess driver fitness against national medical standards developed by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators.

These standards are used by licensing authorities across Canada to assess driver fitness and are the basis of the Canada/US medical reciprocity agreement for commercial drivers. The standards stress a functional approach to assessing driver fitness and are in keeping with current ministry policies and procedures.

#### Patient's Appeal Procedures

All medical licence suspensions can be appealed to the Licence Appeal Tribunal, however, suspensions for failing to meet mandatory vision standards cannot. For more information on the appeal process your patient can call (416) 314-4260 or 1-800-255-2214. You can also visit the Tribunal's web site at

<http://www.slsto.gov.on.ca/en/lat/Pages/default.aspx>

Return the form by fax to:

**Driver Improvement Office - Medical Review Section**  
**416-235-3400 or 1-800-304-7889**

For more information on the medical review process and national medical standards, please visit:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medical-review.shtml>