Courage Center Driver Assessment and Training

Established 1978

- comprehensive driver assessment
  - age 15-??
- equipment evaluation
- passenger vehicle modifications
- behind the wheel lessons
- extended driving evaluation
Increased Referrals for Evaluation

Approximately 800 evaluations completed annually

- 1991 – 22% over the age of 65
- 2008 – 48% over the age of 65
3 Primary Systems Required for Driving

Vision

Cognition

Physical

Integration and coordination within systems determine success
Minnesota State Road Test vs. Comprehensive Driver Assessment

DMV (15 minutes)

- often done on closed course
- roads have posted speeds to 35 mph
- standardized test

Comprehensive Driver Assessment (up to 3 hours)

- drive route designed for clients lifestyle and needs
- real life driving situations
- medically based
- evaluators knowledgeable about aging and disabilities
- assess clinical and functional abilities
Comprehensive Driver Assessment - Clinical

Medical history
Medications
Living situation
Driving status
Physical abilities
Vision
Reaction time

Cognition
• judgment
• quick decisions
• problem solving
• processing
• divided attention
• memory and orientation
Behind-the-Wheel

Control of vehicle

Scanning

Lane positioning
  • curves/turns/straight

Planning/processing

Identify potential risk

Environmental awareness

Judgment

Speed control

Signage

Visual scanning and attention

Management of distracters

Ability to use adaptive equipment
Outcomes

Pass/fail is based on how the client performs comprehensively on both portions of the assessment

Pass

* Restrictions
* Equipment
* Lessons

Fail

* No Driving
* Additional services
* Re-evaluate

Assessment report given to client and sent to physician with signed authorization.

Report is never sent directly to DPS