



COURAGE
CENTER

The Aging Driver

Connle Shaffer, OTR/L, CDRS, LDI

Courage Center

Program Director Driver Assessment and Training

www.CourageCenter.org

763-520-0425

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

