



WEBINAR SERIES

Transportation: Overcoming this Barrier to Rehab after Neurologic Injury

Joan Roush, SVP of Bancroft NeuroRehab

Anne Chandler, Director, Bancroft NeuroRehab

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NeuroRehab

Rebound. Recover. Reconnect.

Objectives

By the conclusion of this webinar participants should be able to:

- 1) Understand at least three deficit related concerns to driving after neurologic injury or insult.
- 2) Know the rules for return to driving or reporting of drivers with neurologic injury/insult history in your state.
- 3) Know best practices for assessing and training individuals to return to driving
- 4) Name alternatives to driving to allow clients and their families to access care and rehabilitation services while not able to drive.



Neurologic Injury

always

results in a potential driving risk

Potential Risk with ALL Neurologic Injury

- Medical Concerns
 - Motor Deficits
 - Visual Deficits
- Cognitive Deficits

Medical Concerns

- Seizures
- Syncopal episodes
- Blood Pressure related problems
- Medications
- Co-morbidities affecting arousal and attention

Motor Deficits

- Weakness of the legs or arms
- Spasticity limiting active movement
- Coordination and slowness of movement
- Motor planning deficits
- Effects of pain on quality of movement

Visual Deficits



- Hemianopsia and Field Cuts
- Double Vision
- Nystagmus, dizziness
- Central Visual Deficits
 - Visual-perceptual deficits
 - Visual-spatial confusion
 - Visual attention

Right Hemianopsia – Street View

What It's Like



**This is how a
street scene
looks with
normal vision.**



**Example
of a
Hemianopia**

Visual Deficits

- Hemianopsia and Field Cuts
- Double Vision
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 - Visual attention

Double Vision



Visual Deficits

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Cognitive Deficits

- Multi-step planning and direction following
- Split attention
- Memory
- Processing speed
- Cognitive fatigue
- Understanding traffic signs and aphasia

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission's (MVC) Rules on Return to Driving

Physicians are required by law to report:

- Recurrent seizure activity
 - Recurrent periods of unconsciousness
 - Impairment or loss of motor coordination due to conditions such as, but not limited to, epilepsy (NJSA 39:3-10.4)
-
- American Medical Association (AMA) 1999 ethical guidelines states that all physicians are ethically responsible for notifying their state motor vehicle department if they believe a patient may not be able to drive.

Reporting to the NJ MVC Medical Review Unit

- Anyone can and should report concerns
- Safety Concerns you might see:
 - Not obeying traffic signs or motor vehicle laws
 - Driving too slowly
 - Confusion with new traffic patterns
 - Multiple accidents or “close calls”
 - Fear or nervousness related to driving
 - Vehicle has multiple signs of unexplained damage (dents, scratches, missing parts like side-view mirrors)

Reporting to the NJ MVC Medical Review Unit

- Anonymous reports cannot be accepted
- Write a letter with your concerns, including:
 - Detailing the motorist's medical condition
 - Name, address, driver's license number, date of birth
 - Include your full name and relationship to the driver
 - Your observations regarding the person's driving abilities

New Jersey's Medical Review Process

- The Medical Review Unit conducts a case-by-case review, they may:
 - Send a letter starting a medical review, including forms that must be completed by a physician
 - Motorist must visit a physician and return forms in 45 days
 - **Failure to return the medical forms on time will result in a license suspension**
 - The physician's findings will determine the next steps, which may range from:
 - No action
 - Additional tests or information needed
 - Indefinite license suspension
 - When seizure disorder, syncope or recurrent loss of motor coordination is identified, a 15-day direct order may be issued.

New Jersey's Medical Review Process

- Approximately 55% of cases are referred to doctors on the MCV's Medical Advisory Panel
 - Review tests and information
 - Does not perform examinations or communicate directly with drivers
 - Review may take 3-4 weeks
- The medical view results may include:
 - Restricted driving privileges
 - Suspension of driving privileges
 - Re-exam
 - Regular monitoring and reporting of medical conditions

Pennsylvania's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Rules on Return to Driving

According to state law, (Section 1518), health care personnel are required to report every person over 15 years of age, diagnosed as having a condition that could impair their ability to drive:

- Except medical conditions expected to last <90 days
- Confidential and no release of source/content of information
- Solely to determine the qualification of the driver to safely operate a motor vehicle
- Immune from civil and criminal liability, when reporting

Pennsylvania's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Rules on Return to Driving

- Physical Criteria listed in law
 - Visual acuity and field of vision standards
 - Seizure disorder
 - Cerebral vascular insufficiency
 - Loss or impairment of joint or extremity
 - Use of any drug known to impair skill or function
- Mental Criteria
 - Cognitive Impairments
 - Inattentiveness
 - Excessive aggressiveness or disregard of safety of self or others

PennDOT's Medical Advisory Board

- Consists of 13 members; including 8 physicians
- 15 days to review reports
- Possible actions of the Board may include:
 - May request additional information or tests (45 days to complete)
 - May place restrictions on the person's driving
 - May recall the license mail - effective within 7 day of mail date
 - May ask the person to complete a driver's examination
 - Deemed competent and therefore may take no action

Delaware's Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Rules

- Self-reporting on renewal
 - May be required to show certification concerning any medical condition that may interfere with ability to drive
 - May require a new certification annually
 - Failure to provide favorable doctor's report will result in suspension
- Medical Suspension/Medical Surrender
 - Any person with loss of consciousness due to CNS disease will not be issued a driver's license without a certificate report, that:
 - Is from a doctor who has been treating the person for a minimum of 3 months
 - Physician states the infirmity is sufficiently controlled for safe operation
 - Must be renewed annually
 - Failure to provide favorable report will result in suspension

Assessment of Driver Skills after Neurologic Injury

- Physician notification
- Review of driver history
- Might be covered by Medicare at Outpatient Rehab Facility
- Off-road driver's screening
 - Psychological Assessment –
 - Executive Cognitive Evaluation
 - Processing speed
 - Reaction time
 - Occupational Therapy Assessment –
 - Visual abilities and limitations
 - Eye hand coordination
 - Signs and rules of the road
 - May include evaluation with a simulator program

On-Road Driver's Assessment and Training

- Comprehensive Assessment by a trained driving professional
- Can custom test to evaluate specific problems
- Dual-controlled for safety
- Can provide training in new assistive devices
- Let's driver know when they are “ready” for Motor Vehicle Re-Assessment
-

On-Road Driver's Assessment and Training

- Adaptive Equipment training
 - 1-hand knob
 - Left foot pedals
 - Hand controls
 - Additional mirrors for blind spots
 - Prism glasses
 - Eye patches
- New learning requires training

One-hand Knob



A prototype driving device allows disabled people to steer, accelerate, change gears and brake with one hand (Photo: FICOSA International S.A.)

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Left-foot Pedal Device



Left Foot –
Gas Pedal
with Guard

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Alternatives to Driving – Public and County

- Accessible Public and County Transportation Initiatives
 - SenHan and Access Link
 - Paratransit
 - Subways and trains with accessibility
- County Transportation Assistance Initiatives



Medicare / Medicaid Funding

➤ Medicare funded transportation

- Transportation for routine medical care is **not** a covered benefit
- Non-emergent transportation may be covered in some cases
- Coverage depends on the seriousness of the medical condition and the safest transport method

➤ Medicaid funded transportation through Logisticare:

- Non-emergent transportation is a covered benefit
- Contracted providers
- Levels of Service
- Medical Necessity and Standing Order forms
- Customer Service
- Web Portal
- Notice requirements for booking a transport

Alternatives to Driving – Per Diem Program

- Per Diem Programs with transportation
 - Bundled services, including transportation
 - Practice transfers within typical vehicles
 - Skilled driver
 - *CPR, Seizures, Transfer training*



Alternatives to Driving – On-Demand Transportation

- On-Time Transportation Options:
 - Uber
 - Lyft
 - RoundTrip
- Benefits of On-Demand Transports
 - Timeliness
 - Reliability
 - Consistency

Concerns with Standards of Services / Barriers

- Concerns with standard service
- Safety
- Not for everyone
- Varying drivers
- Out of pocket expense
- Awareness of variables in cost requirements
 - Is there a large event going on nearby?
 - Are you traveling on a holiday?
 - Is the time you request during peak travel times?

Suggestions: Protective Measures for a Safe Transportation Experience

- Utilizing Cognitively friendly facilitators
- Explain specific accommodations needed
- Advocacy
- Tracking mechanisms with on-demand transportation options
- Planning & Preparation
- More resources

Resources

- State of New Jersey Online Resource for Accessible Transportation <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/hottopics/transportation/>
- SenHan Camden County: <http://scucs.org/sen-han-transit-camden-county/>, <http://scucs.org/wp-content/uploads/senhan/disabledappformCAM0316.pdf>
- Sen Han Burlington County: <http://scucs.org/sen-han-transit-burlington-county/>, <http://scucs.org/wp-content/uploads/senhan/disabledappformBUR0316.pdf>
- AccessLink https://www.njtransit.com/tm/tm_servlet.srv?hdnPageAction=AccessLinkTo
- AccessLink Online Access and Instructions: https://accesslink.njtransit.com/FILE/Apps/System/images/web_brochure.pdf
- Medicare: <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/ambulance-services>
- Medicaid / Logisticare NJ: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/home/logisticare.html>
- Logisticare Member Forms: <http://memberinfo.logisticare.com/>
- Medicaid / MATP PA: <http://matp.pa.gov/>
- Medicaid / Logisticare DE: <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/medical.html>

Thank you for your time today!

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Questions?

Email address:

joan.roush@bancroft.org

anne.chandler@bancroft.org