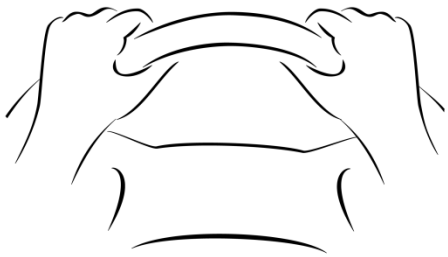
Driving After a Stroke

Driving is an activity that requires the brain to do many things at the same time. A stroke changes the way your brain works and can have a major effect on your ability to react to many situations. This change is not always obvious to the person who has had a stroke or those who care for them.

Road Safety BC is responsible for deciding if you are able to drive. They make decisions about your license to drive. If you have had a stroke, you need to be medically cleared to drive before getting back behind the wheel. Driving after a stroke without first getting medical clearance could void your driver's insurance and make you liable if you have an accident.



Step 1

If you have had a stroke, and feel that you are safe to return to driving, talk to your doctor. If your doctor says you can return to driving, write down the date you talked to your doctor and request that your doctor write this down as well.

Step 2

If your doctor is not ready to clear you to drive and you feel ready to drive, then your next option is to have your doctor complete a ***Driver Medical Examination*** form and send it to ***Road Safety BC***. A letter is mailed to the address on your driver's licence and it tells you what the next steps are. You have 30 days to reply to this letter.

Next steps could include ongoing restrictions, a test of your ability to drive, or a period of rehabilitation. There might be a cost for some of these services. Some extended health plans cover the cost and the cost can be submitted as a medical expense on your income tax return. Please note that we do not offer driver screening or rehabilitation.

This process can take 3 to 6 months.

Additional Information

Road Safety BC — ow.ly/ypdK30gJCOQ
Brainstreams - Drive Again — goo.gl/26ejRe

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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