




**“Impact of Dementia on Driving & the role of the Forum of Mobility Centres in UK”**

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### Michon’s Driving Hierarchy Adapted from Michon 1979, Wedding 1992



Level	Examples of Actions	Time Pressure	Psychological Abilities Required
Strategic	Deciding whether to drive in bad weather	Low non-existent	Planning, memory, self-appraisal of abilities
Tactical	Looking ahead in traffic, deciding whether to change lanes	Medium	Planning, anticipation, decision-making
Operational	Second-by-second manoeuvring (eg gear changing, steering, reacting to events)	High	Psychomotor speed, acute perceptual abilities

### Changes in the Driver (In our personal resources)

- Physical
- Vision alters
- Cognitive changes
- Health conditions: existing ones change, new ones develop



### Driving Licence Regulations

**DIRECTIVE 2006/126/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 December 2006 on driving licences: 3rd Driving Licence Directive**

**\* Article 7**

1. ...

- \* (a) who have passed a test of skills and behaviour and a theoretical
- \* test and who meet medical standards, in accordance
- \* with the provisions of Annexes II and III;

### UK Legislation

#### Mild Cognitive Impairment

- \* Usually no need to inform DVLA

#### Dementia

- \* **MUST** inform DVLA
- \* **Decision usually based on medical reports**
- \* **Group 2 licences revoked**

For Medical Practitioners

At a glance  
 Guide to the current  
 Medical Standards  
 of Fitness to Drive

GMC have useful guidance on reporting concerns to DVLA

Issued by  
 Drivers Medical Group  
 DVLA, Swansea  
 2013 Edition

### A practical assessment of fitness to Drive

A practical assessment of fitness to drive involves ‘the integration of background medical information with an objective evaluation of physical, visual, and cognitive function and an in-car demonstration that a disabled person has the ability and skill to drive, using any compensatory aids if required’

(Handbook of Disabled Driver Assessment, p. 19)

## Driving Assessment for Fitness to Drive

### Driving Assessment for fitness to drive:

Verifying that the 'picture fits'

- \* "The balance of fitness, ability, skill and behaviour is a dynamic one,
- \* dependent on many intrinsic and external influences"

(Handbook of Disabled Driver Assessment, p. 19)

### Driving Assessments:

- \* "practical assessment of fitness to drive"
- \* limitations of the conventional diagnosis led approach
- \* by pragmatism looking for solutions rather than only problems
- \* impairment related driving consequences

## Commonly used psychometric Assessment tools as Pre- Drive assessment

- \* MOCA
- \* Rookwood Driving Battery
- \* Trail Making A & B
- \* Clock Drawing Test
- \* Many others

Three decades of research looking at the role of psychometric tests in validating and reliably picking up on cognitive difficulties that lead to poor on-the-road driving

- \* Still debate about which aspects of cognitive functioning are important in the driving task or linked to safe driving

## Current Thinking

*"at present no single test or battery can be recommended as clearly predictive of fitness to drive. Cognitive 'screening' tests are useful in identifying very grossly impaired functioning..... but have limitations to their usefulness in milder degrees of cognitive impairment"* (British Psychological Society, 2001)

## Practical Driving Assessment

### How

- \* Knowledge of implications of medical diagnoses on driving (functional impairments)
- \* Pre- and in car evaluations
- \* Comprehension of normality and abnormality concerning behaviour in traffic
- \* Comprehension of + and - of vehicle adaptations, restrictions

### pre - car assessment:

- \* referral information
- \* medical
- \* visual
- \* cognitive function
- \* physical

### In car performance:

- \* impairments, limitations and compensation
- \* driving skills

"The expert looks beyond the driver's actions and tries to understand them to

- \* establish if they are due to problems of fitness, skill, or behaviour (individually or combined)." (Handbook of disabled driver assessment, p. 21)

### Decision:

- \* **practically fit to drive:** within range of normal driving adaptations and/or other changes required (human and/or vehicle)
- \* **practically not fit to drive:** impairment related phenomena (limitations) which cannot be remediated by any intervention (at this moment).

## How might problems with attention impact upon driving?

### EXAMPLES:

- \* Not responding to road signs or hazards  
e.g. 'No Entry' signs or not stopping at red light
- \* Missing turnings
- \* Neglecting one aspect of driving when concentrating another  
e.g. not changing gear when coming up to a roundabout
- \* Attention captured by external things  
e.g. passers-by, posters, noises
- \* Making more mistakes the longer into the drive they are
- \* Poor switching between tasks

## How might problems with information processing impact upon driving?

### Examples

#### May see problems with:

- \* Changing lanes in traffic
- \* Merging from slip roads
- \* Dealing with busy junctions or roundabouts
- \* Driving at rush hour
- \* Travelling an unfamiliar route
- \* Responding to road signs

## How might memory problems impact upon driving?

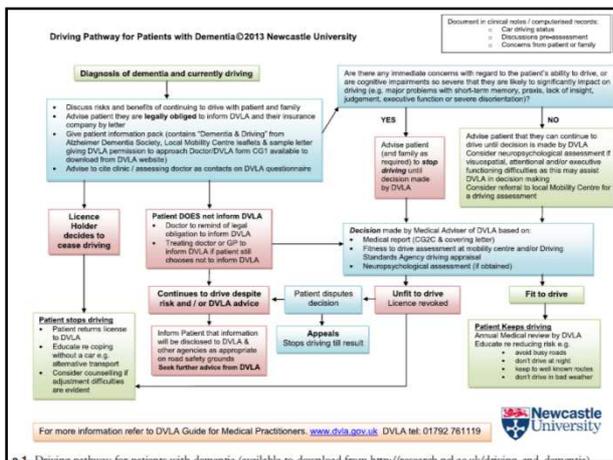
### Examples

- \* Getting directions wrong / getting lost / asking you to repeat directions
- \* Not recognising previously used routes
- \* Confabulation  
i.e. give elaborate stories as to why they went the wrong way or did what they did

## How might executive problems impact upon driving?

### EXAMPLES:

- \* Problems adapting to the traffic situation
- \* Problems anticipating hazards  
e.g. at roundabouts or near misses when changing lanes
- \* Difficulty in correcting mistakes e.g. wrong lane
- \* Blame other drivers
- \* Road rage or impatience at traffic lights
- \* Appear to take risks / misjudge situations
- \* Difficulties planning appropriate routes or coping with diversions
- \* Difficulty switching task
- \* Confusion about operating the car



## Forum of Mobility Centres

- \* The umbrella body for Mobility Centres
- \* Sets the standards for Mobility Centres
- \* Accredits the operations of Mobility Centres
- \* Shares best practice
- \* Develops education and training
- \* Develops new initiatives/services
- \* Liaises with funders and other stakeholders
- \* Responsible for policy, research and development
- \* A not for profit organisation (UK Charity) funded by Department for Transport.

### Find a centre...



## Forum of Mobility Centres charity number 298178

Offers a range of services related to the needs of the driver &/or passenger:

- \* Advice & information:
  - Licensing and insurance, Motability, driving tuition, adaptation specialists, equipment options
- \* Practical driving assessment:
  - Fitness to drive
  - Vehicle control
  - Suitability to learn to drive
- \* Other services:
  - Access / egress ax
  - Wheelchair / scooter ax
  - Paediatric assessment for car seating\*
  - Driving tuition\*
  - Wheelchair / scooter AX\*



## Mobility versus Drivers Licence

### Drivers Licence (DL):

- is *only one implementation* of the Mobility Right
- is a **privilege (If we meet certain standards)**
- is to be seen as a diploma





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