Driving

Being able to drive again is a priority for most people after a stroke. It is important as a way of getting around and being independent.

Your doctor or stroke specialist will decide if and when it is safe for you to drive. This will depend on the effects of your stroke and how long they last.

Your doctor may report your condition to the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO). The MTO may suspend your licence until you have recovered enough to be able to drive safely.

Some stroke effects, such as weakness, do not prevent you from driving. It may be possible to adapt your vehicle so you can drive safely.

When you are ready, you may need to have a driving assessment before you are allowed to drive. Any restrictions or changes to your vehicle will be noted on your driver’s licence.

About half of stroke survivors return to driving.

Some stroke survivors have lasting effects that make driving unsafe. It is not possible for them to drive again.
Questions about driving

- Will I be able to drive after my stroke?
- I received a letter from the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario informing me that my licence has been suspended. What happens now?
- Has the doctor given me the OK to drive again? Where can I go to get tested? How much does a driving test cost?
- What do I need to do to get my licence back?
- Are there rules or regulations about driving after stroke?
- Who can help me to make changes to my vehicle so that I can drive? Can I apply for funding to help cover the cost of those changes?
- What changes to my licence do I need to inform my vehicle insurance company about?
- What happens if I am no longer allowed to drive?
- Will my insurance cover someone else to drive my car?
- What happens if I drive when my doctor has told me not to?

Resources about driving

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Let’s Talk About Stroke,
a guide developed by the Heart and Stroke Foundation, pages 55-57

- Heart and Stroke Foundation
  www.heartandstroke.on.ca/atf/cf/%7B33C6FA68-B56B-4760-ABC6-D85B2D02EE71%7D/Driving_After_Stroke_Survivors_June_2007_FINAL.pdf
• StrokEngine
  provides information on stroke-related topics, including driving, from quality articles, websites and systematic reviews.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OF ONTARIO

• Driver Improvement Office, Medical Review Section
  www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/medical-review or call 416-235-1773 or 1-800-268-1481. Check the website for information on the process to reinstate your license and for MTO approved driver assessment centres for driving evaluations.

• Accessible Parking Permits
  www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/vehicle/app.shtml
  or call 416-235-2999 or 1-800-387-3445

Ministry of Transportation
approved driver assessment and training centres in Toronto:

• Saint Elizabeth Health Centre – Driver Assessment and Training Services
  www.saintelizabeth.com/page/driver-assessment-training or call 416-398-1035

• DriveAgain
  www.driveagain.ca or call 416-640-0292 or 1-888-640-0292

• Driver Rehab Therapist  www.driverrehabtherapist.com or call 416-807-7155
VEHICLE MODIFICATION

- **National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)**
  is a non-profit trade association of mobility equipment professionals
dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to drive or
be transported in modified vehicles. [www.nmeda.com](http://www.nmeda.com) or call
1-866-948-8341

- **General Motors of Canada – Mobility Program**
  will adapt certain GM vehicles for easier access.
  [www.gm.ca/gm/english/owner_centre/buick/autocare/article/1233087303030](http://www.gm.ca/gm/english/owner_centre/buick/autocare/article/1233087303030) or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE

- **Savaria Vehicle Group**
  is a wheelchair van conversion company.

- **Shoppers Home Health Care – Automotive Division**
  is a dealer for wheelchair accessible vans. [www.sparrowhawk.ca](http://www.sparrowhawk.ca)

- **Universal Motion**
  installs wheelchair lifts and van conversions.
  [www.universalmotion.com](http://www.universalmotion.com) or call 416-398-4255 or 1-877-899-0699

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS

- **Ontario March of Dimes – Home and Vehicle Modification Program**
  provides funding for vehicle modifications.
  [www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx)
or call 416-425-3463 or 1-800-263-3463