

Drivers with Seizures

Medical Reporting by Healthcare Practitioners

The *Highway Traffic Act* requires physicians, optometrists and nurse practitioners in Ontario to report to the ministry patients age 16 or over who have certain medical or visual conditions that may make it dangerous to drive. In addition, physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists and occupational therapists have the discretion to report patients who, in their opinion, have a condition that may make it dangerous to drive.

For individuals with a seizure disorder, the primary concern is the risk that the driver could become suddenly incapacitated, which could cause an individual to lose control of their vehicle.

Class G and/or M Drivers

If a healthcare practitioner reports you have experienced a seizure or that you have a diagnosis of epilepsy, the ministry will require additional medical information to assess your licence status. In some cases, your driver's licence will be suspended.

Commercial Drivers

If you are a commercial driver and it is reported that you have experienced a seizure or that you have been diagnosed with epilepsy, the ministry will require additional medical information to assess your licence status. In some cases your commercial driver's licence will be downgraded or suspended.

If You Are Diagnosed with a Seizure Disorder

The ministry will send you a form to be completed by your physician or nurse practitioner. Depending on the nature of the seizure(s), your healthcare practitioner may only be required to complete certain parts of the form.

There may be different standards that you are required to meet depending on the nature of the seizure. Examples of different seizures are

- *Epilepsy*
- *Provoked seizures caused by a structural brain abnormality (e.g. brain tumour, stroke, aneurysm)*
- *Provoked seizures with no structural brain abnormality (e.g. toxic illness, adverse drug reaction, trauma)*
- *Alcohol-related provoked seizures*
- *Single unprovoked seizure*

Additional Information

If the medical report indicates seizure(s) due to use of alcohol, the ministry will require additional information from your healthcare provider. The appropriate form will be mailed to you with instructions on how to have it completed.

How Are Seizure Reports Assessed?

As with all medical conditions, seizure reports are assessed against national medical standards. In most cases, the ministry will require confirmation that a thorough assessment has been conducted to determine the cause of the seizure and, where applicable, treated. In some cases a certain period of stability between seizures will be required.

Once the ministry receives your medical report, your file will be reviewed and you will be notified of the decision in writing. Files are reviewed on a first-come first-served basis.

National Medical Standards for Commercial Drivers

Commercial drivers who experience seizures may be required to meet standards that are over and above those for class G drivers. For more information on national medical standards you can visit the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators web site at www.ccmta.ca/en

Appeal Procedures

All medical licence suspensions can be appealed to the *Licence Appeal Tribunal*. You can contact the Tribunal about appealing your case by calling (416) 326-1356 or 1-888-444-0240 (toll free). You can also visit the Tribunal's website at <https://tribunalsontario.ca/lat>.

For more information on the medical review process and national medical standards, please visit us at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/medical-review.shtml>