

Completing the DMV Form for the Visually Impaired

When your patients go to the DMV to renew their license and fail the vision screening test, they are given the DR2401 form to bring to their eye doctor to complete. It can be confusing to know what needs to be done with the form.

Which side do I fill out? The first side has the patient's name and demographic information at the top followed by a release of information statement that the patient should sign. Sections II and III are typically filled out by the patient's primary care physician for medical conditions. Section IV is on the back side is typically completed by eye care providers.

License or no License? The first question in Section IV asks your opinion if it is medically prudent for the patient to be issued a license. The patient's visual status, as well as their cognitive and physical condition should be considered. Be aware that if you answer "No", the DMV will not issue a license.

Road Test YES or NO? If you are authorizing a license, you need to decide if a road test is warranted. If you request a road test, make two copies of the form, one for you and one for the patient. Mail the original to the address in the upper-left corner of the form. Although the address does not look complete, the form will arrive at the appropriate office. Good patient management is to advise them you are requesting a road test.

Restrictions? If there are any restrictions that should be placed, indicate appropriately. This is the section to indicate the need for corrective lenses. Fill in your contact information and the date of the exam. Please note that the DMV will only accept exam dates that are current within 90 days.

Common Restrictions (you may want some or all of these restrictions)

- Night Driving Restriction or Daylight only driving. This is the most common restriction applied and usually where the visually impaired first feel insecure with driving
- Mileage limit from their home. You could specify a radius such as 5-10 miles from home.
- Speed limit restrictions, such as less than 55 miles per hour.

You need to assess where the patient lives and how far they need or want to drive. Be aware that the DMV will issue a restricted license for 5 years for your patient. Their vision may be acceptable without restrictions initially but many changes can happen to their vision in a five year period.

Fill in the appropriate results as completely as possible. Consider indicating in the comments section if the vision condition is stable and any other pertinent information you need to share. The patient needs to sign at the bottom, indicating that they understand that the above data will be used to determine whether the DMV will issue the license.

If you are referring a patient for driver's rehabilitation and the patient does not have a valid license, then Section II should be completed. Answer the two questions by checking "yes" for each, and then check the box for "rehab permit only". This means the patient is allowed to drive only when accompanied by the certified driver's rehab specialist.

Driving is a privilege that many patients are concerned they may need to give up due to vision loss. Counseling them through the steps and advising them of their status will help them maintain their independence, yet maintain the safety of themselves and others.

Driving Vision Guidelines - Central

A motor vehicle customer who fails the central vision test of 20/40 will be given the DR2401 form and told to see an eye care professional. Most DMV offices require the form to be signed within 30 days of the eye examination. If a patient is seen in your office after failing the DMV screening, the COA Low Vision Committee suggests the following.

Best Visual Acuity: Best Eye, Best Corrected	Recommendation	Suggested Restrictions	Other Considerations
20/40 or better	Pass	None	None
20/50 to better than 20/100	Restrict & Educate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylight driving only • Left and Right side mirrors • If the patient has additional vision problems (i.e., visual fields, glare, scanning issues) consider adding mileage and rate of restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider referral/fitting for bioptic** telescope fitting and training. • Driver's training with an OTR/CDRS• • Behind the wheel test by DMV
20/100 up to (but not including) 20/200	Restrict & Educate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above • Additional restrictions in area (radius in miles from home) and rate of speed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider referral/fitting for bioptic** telescope fitting and training. • Driver's training with an OTR/CDRS* • Behind the wheel driving test DMV
20/200 or worse	Fail & Educate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Blindness • No driving privilege should be granted under any circumstance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and/or refer for alternative forms of transportation. • Write letter for patient declaring legal blind eligibility

*OTR/CDRS = Registered Occupational Therapist Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist. For a listing, go to <http://www.driver-ed.org> and click on "CDRS Directory"

**Visual acuity of 20/40 or better required with bioptic lenses.

Like all screening tests from the DMV, eye care practitioner is advised to use his/her professional judgment in determining the safety of a visually impaired driver. It is highly recommended to have a patient evaluated "behind the wheel " by an OTR/CDRS or by the DMV if there are concerns as to the patient 's physical and cognitive abilities. If you have questions or are uncomfortable evaluating a patient for driving, consider referring your patient to a colleague who specializes in low vision. You can find a current listing of COA low vision providers on the COA website.

Driving Vision Guidelines - Peripheral

In June 2006, the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles made significant changes to its vision screening procedures. These changes were the result of discussions between the DMV and the COA Low Vision Committee.

- The peripheral vision testing is done on the same Optec and Keystone vision screening machines that have been used in Colorado for many years to test visual acuity and phorias.
- The testing stimulus is equivalent to a Goldmann 114e target.
- The default screening parameters for the testing machines are 55° temporal and 35° nasal.
- As with any screening test, false positives and false negatives will occur.

DMV Peripheral Field Screening Guidelines

	Binocular Driver	Monocular Driver
PASS	55° temporal OD <u>AND</u> 55° temporal OS <u>AND</u> one eye at least 35° nasal	55° temporal <u>AND</u> 35° nasal in the seeing eye

A motor vehicle customer who fails the peripheral field test will be given the DR2401 form and told to see an eye care professional. If a patient is seen in your office after failing the visual field screening, the COA Low Vision Committee suggests the following.

If the patient's horizontal visual field is....	Recommendation	Considerations
70° or more binocularly	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Less than 70° binocularly	Include 'Special Restrictions' on DR2401 Form & Educate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylight driving only • Left and right side mirrors • Educate on scanning techniques • Driver's training with an OTR/CDRS* The more restricted the field, the more severe the driving restrictions should be, and the more critical additional driver's training becomes
Less than 70° binocularly in addition to decreased acuity, decreased contrast sensitivity and/or metamorphosis	Additional 'Special Restrictions' on DR2401 Form	In addition to the restrictions above, further restrictions in driving area (i.e.. radius in miles from home) and rate of speed should be recommended
Less than 20° binocularly	Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal blindness • No driving privilege should be recommended or authorized under any circumstances.

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