

Fact Sheet

Driving

Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center

The Issues

PD symptoms are associated with driving ability:

- Decline in motor skills: Slowness, stiffness, muscle tightness
- Decline in cognitive skills: Difficulty determining distance or distinguishing shapes

PD medications can affect driving ability by producing side effects:

- Excessive daytime sleepiness or sudden-onset sleep
- Dizziness or blurred vision
- Confusion and memory impairment

Practical Pointers

1. Talk with your physician about the possible effects of your particular medicines. And, report changes to your physician.
2. Pay attention to your driving skills.
3. Be open to discussion with your family about your driving skills and, if necessary, other transportation options.
4. Remember that, as difficult as the transition may be, giving up driving does not mean giving up mobility or independence.

Driver Rehabilitation Programs (Driver Safety Evaluation)

Alexian Rehabilitation Hospital 847-640-3119

Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital (Wheaton) 630-909-7154

Northshore University Health System 847-570-1260

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center 815-741-7416

Rush University Medical Center 312-942-6967

Resources

- American Medical Association (AMA) *The Physician's Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers* at www.ama-assn.org
- Questionnaire "Am I A Safe Driver?"
- AARP and AAA Driver Safety Classes
- Driver Safety Evaluation by a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, for 1) Assessment of driving skills, 2) Rehabilitation, 3) Recommendations for vehicle modifications. Our physicians will provide the necessary referral.

Ken and Ruth Davee Department of
Neurology and Clinical
Neurological Sciences
Galter Pavilion
675 N. St. Clair St., Suite 20-100
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 695-7950
Fax: (312) 695-5474