

DRIVER EDUCATION: Getting your Learner's License

To qualify for a learner's license you must be 16 years of age or older and free of seizures for one year. For young people with disabilities or a medical condition that might affect the ability to drive, the procedure for learning to drive is:

- Go to an Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) Driver Services office to apply for learner's license. ("L" designation).
- You will be asked if you have a medical condition. You must declare your diagnosis. You will receive a Driver's Medical Examination Form that a physician must complete and sign.
- Take the Driver's Medical Form to a family physician who knows your medical history well (you may be charged for the time needed to do this).
- At the same time have your Doctor send a referral to a Driver Rehabilitation Program.
 - In the Lower Mainland this is at GF Strong (604-737-6207):
http://www.vch.ca/locations-and-services/find-health-services/?program_id=11712
 - For a listing of other Driver Rehabilitation Programs in the province refer to this website: <http://brainstreams.ca/learn/getting-your-life/when-can-i-drive-again/driver-rehab-programs>
- Once the medical form is sent in, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles will review it. You will be either cleared to learn to drive or asked to complete an additional assessment.
- The additional assessment will determine if you are able to learn to drive and if you will need special adapted equipment.
- There are different types of assessments, depending on your situation:
 - Clinical Physical
 - Clinical Cognitive
 - Road assessment

You need to have a learner's license to do a road assessment. The clinical assessments can be done without this (if you just want to see if it's possible to drive but don't want to get a license just yet).

- The driver rehab expert may prescribe special equipment or adaptations needed to help you drive. They will recommend dealers for installation. www.vch.ca/gfstrong/services/drive/index
- **There are fees for assessments and further costs for additional equipment or vehicle modifications if these are determined to be necessary.**

Possible Funding options for Driving Assessments and Equipment

Depending on your age and diagnosis:

- The Variety Club of BC www.variety.bc.ca
- Easter Seals (i.e Lions Club) www.lionsbc.ca
The Lions Foundation is a non-profit organization which assists recipients with the non-medical cost such as travel, accommodations, and financial assistance for special equipment needed by the recipients and that is not covered by government funding
- Presidents Choice Children's Charity http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en_CA/community/pccc.html
Will consider funding for driving assessments and vehicle modifications, but they need to see a completed application to review if it first within their guidelines. Funding is for youth 18 years or younger.
- Spinal Cord Injury BC <http://sci-bc.ca/>
- Neil Squire Foundation www.neilsquire.ca
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada <http://www.muscle.ca/>
- Spina Bifida Association www.spinabifidaassociation.org
- Kinsmen Club <http://kinsmenfoundationofbc.ca/history.htm>
Assist Adults with disabilities – need to be 19 years
- BC Rehab Foundation www.bcrehab.com
- Student assistance grants from many universities & colleges- can include requests for driver education funding

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