

Medical assessments for taxi drivers

Information and advice for patients

Occupational Health and Wellbeing Service

What is a medical assessment for taxi drivers?

A medical assessment involves having tests to check your general health. To be granted a taxi licence, taxi drivers need to pass a medical assessment. The assessment will involve having your blood pressure and pulse checked, a urine test, an eye test and a hearing test.

What are the benefits of the medical assessment?

The benefit of the assessment is that it will tell the doctor if you are healthy enough to drive a taxi safely. If you pass all parts of the medical assessment you will be granted a fitness certificate by the doctor, saying that you are well enough to be granted a taxi license.

Are there any risks to the tests?

There are no risks to any of these tests.

Are there any alternative tests?

There are no alternatives to these tests that will give the doctor the information they need.

What are the risks of not having the tests?

If you choose not to have these tests you will not be granted a taxi license and therefore will not be able to work as a taxi driver.

What to bring to your assessment appointment

Please complete Section A of the medical questionnaire you have been sent and bring this with you to your appointment. If you wear hearing aids, glasses or contact lenses please bring these with you to the appointment, as well as your most recent glasses prescription. You will also need to bring three of the following forms of identification with you to the appointment:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- A utility bill (e.g. gas or electricity) that is no more than three months old
- Birth certificate
- National insurance card
- UK NHS card

Please contact us before you arrive to find out how much you will need to pay for the assessment as you will need to bring with you the fee in cash or cheque.

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When you come for the assessment

Your appointment will be held in the Occupational Health and Wellbeing department at Sandwell General Hospital.

When you arrive please let the receptionist know you are here. You will then be asked to pay the fee for the assessment. If you are not able to pay the fee your appointment will be cancelled.

During your appointment you will see a doctor and a nurse. If you have said that you have a medical condition the doctor may ask you for more information about this.

You will be asked to provide a sample of your urine which will be tested for infection and diabetes. If the urine test suggests you might have diabetes you may also need to have a sample of your blood taken to be tested.

The doctor will also:

- Check your blood pressure
- Check your pulse
- Listen to your heart
- Check your mobility and movement
- Test your hearing
- Test your vision

After the assessment

The doctor will tell you the results of your medical assessment during your appointment.

If you have passed the assessment the doctor will send a fitness certificate to the council, who will grant you your taxi licence.

If the doctor has any concerns, you may be advised to see your GP or optician for further tests before the certificate can be granted. When we receive the results of these tests you may need to come for another appointment, but you will not be charged for this.

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Further information

If you have any questions about the medical assessment please contact:

Occupational Health and Wellbeing

0121 507 3306

Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm

For more information about taxi driver licences contact:

Sandwell Taxi Licensing Office

0121 569 6655

or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk and search 'taxi and minicab licences'

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our websites www.swbh.nhs.uk or follow us on Twitter @SWBHnhs and Facebook www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs

Sources used for the information in this leaflet

- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, 'For medical practitioners: At a glance guide to the current medical standards of fitness to drive', November 2014 (incorporating August 2015 and January 2016 amendments)
- The Royal Society of Medicine, 'Fitness to drive: A guide for health professionals', 2006

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5303 or email: swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net



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