

## RoadSafetyBC Adoption of the 2016 CCMTA Guide

On April 1, 2016, RoadSafetyBC adopted the **2016 Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines (2016 BC Guide)** in place of the 2010 BC Guide in Determining Fitness to Drive (BC Guide).

The **2016 BC Guide** is based on Version 13 of the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers and has been supplemented with BC specific information and guidelines.

### 1. Rationale behind RoadSafetyBC adopting the 2016 BC Guide

In 2010, RoadSafetyBC and the Doctors of BC jointly published the 2010 BC Guide. This Guide was the first evidence-based driver fitness guide used by a road safety regulator in North America, placing BC as a national leader.

In 2013, based largely on the BC Guide, the CCMTA published national medical standards for drivers. The CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers are maintained through the national Driver Fitness Overview Group. The standards are reviewed and updated at regular intervals. Proposed changes to medical standards are drafted by the Driver Fitness Overview Group and are subject to a written balloting process in which each jurisdiction has a review period and a vote for approval.

RoadSafetyBC is already a member of the national Driver Fitness Overview Group; hence this gives us the opportunity to provide input to the regular review process to ensure the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers remain current and reflect existing medical opinion and advances in research and knowledge.

### 2. Anticipated benefits of adopting the 2016 BC Guide

The 2010 BC Guide was intended to be updated on a regular basis; however, resource constraints have impeded this. As the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers are nationally supported by the CCMTA infrastructure, the adoption of the **2016 BC Guide** provides a better process for maintaining currency. This also enables greater consistency in the approach of assessing individual drivers across Canada which ensures licensing reciprocity with other jurisdictions.

Implementation of the **2016 BC Guide** reflects RoadSafetyBC's continuing commitment to public safety while allowing the maximum driving privilege possible.

The **2016 BC Guide** should be easier to use for practitioners; format differences make it more user friendly and easier to navigate (i.e. chapters are ordered alphabetically and medical condition charts are located at the beginning of each sub-chapters for quick reference).

### **3. Development of the BC specific guidelines**

BC specific assessment guidelines have been updated by RoadSafetyBC Driver Medical Fitness registered nurse case managers and embedded into Version 13 of the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers Guide to create the **2016 BC Guide**.

The **2016 BC Guide** has been developed for BC as the Licensing Authority Guide and may also be used as a reference for medical practitioners when they are assessing driver fitness for RoadSafetyBC.

### **4. Stakeholder Engagement involved in the decision to adopt the 2016 BC Guide**

Consultations with the Driver Fitness Advisory Group regarding the potential adoption of the CCMTA Guide occurred in April, June, and October 2015 and between January and March 2016.

In October 2015 the Driver Fitness Advisory Group confirmed their endorsement of the recommendation to proceed with adopting the CCMTA Guide with BC specific guidelines; their endorsement was subsequently forwarded with provisions to the Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSC).

In December, the EMSC provided their recommendation to proceed. The recommendation echoed that of the Driver Fitness Advisory Group and included the same provisions. The provisions have been/are being addressed.

### **5. Differences between the 2016 BC Guide and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Drivers Guide**

The **2016 BC Guide** and the CMA Drivers Guide contain similar recommendations when appropriate. The primary difference is the CMA document is orientated around physicians counselling patients regarding driving.

The **2016 BC Guide** is the decision guiding tool used by RoadSafetyBC in determining driver licence status and is available as a reference for medical practitioners when they are assessing driver fitness for RoadSafetyBC. The CMA Guide to Drive continues to be a clinical reference for medical practitioners when they are counselling patients regarding driving.

Additional reference materials and support for medical practitioners will still be available through, College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA), and RoadSafetyBC.

Further questions can be directed to RoadSafetyBC at [roadsafetybc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:roadsafetybc@gov.bc.ca)