

Key Messages for Medical Professionals

- As of March 1, 2018, DriveABLE assessments will not be used by RoadSafetyBC to make licensing decisions. RoadSafetyBC has stopped referring drivers to DriveABLE, and will not pay for any DriveABLE assessment completed as of March 1, 2018.
- DriveABLE will be replaced by a new Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA) administered by ICBC.
- The ERA will also replace Class 5 ICBC road test re-examinations.
- The ERA is an on-road assessment which does not have or use an in-office computer based screening component.
- The ERA will be used by RoadSafetyBC to evaluate drivers of any age with a cognitive, motor, or visual deficit that may impair their ability to safely drive.
- The results of the ERA will be reviewed by RoadSafetyBC along with all other information related to the driver's medical fitness to drive, to make a licensing decision.
- There is no change to the age 80 Driver Medical Examination Report process.
- The Report of a Condition Affecting Fitness and Ability to Drive form has been updated to remove DriveABLE from the recommendation section. If you would like to recommend that RoadSafetyBC refer your patient for a driving assessment, you may recommend an ERA conducted by ICBC.

Q & A for Medical Professionals

Q: What is the Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA)?

A: The ERA is an on-road assessment designed to assess drivers who have a medical condition, or functional impairment, that may affect the motor, cognitive or sensory functions required for driving. RoadSafetyBC may require individuals experiencing one or more of these issues to complete an ERA as part of the process of making a Driver Medical Fitness determination. The requirement to complete an ERA is based on the above, not a driver's age.

Q: Who is the ERA for?

A: The ERA is delivered to Class 5 and Class 7 drivers only. Commercial drivers requiring an on-road driving assessment may be referred for a commercial class ICBC road test re-examination.

Q: Who decides when someone should be referred for an ERA?

A: Based on information and recommendations provided by medical practitioners, RoadSafetyBC makes the decision to refer a driver to take an ERA. Drivers of any age may be required by RoadSafetyBC to complete the ERA. Drivers that previously would have been referred by RoadSafetyBC for a DriveABLE assessment or an ICBC road test re-examination may now be referred to the ERA.

Q: Who delivers the ERA?

A: The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) delivers the ERA on behalf of RoadSafetyBC from approximately 80 ICBC locations throughout the province. RoadSafetyBC then makes the licensing decision on review of the ERA results and all other relevant information in the driver's file.

Q: How was the ERA developed?

A: RoadSafetyBC consulted with other jurisdictions across Canada, engaged subject matter experts at ICBC, and seconded an Occupational Therapist with a Graduate Certificate in assessing Driver Capability to develop the ERA, including a review of relevant literature and examination of best practices in other jurisdictions.

Q: How is the ERA different from DriveABLE?

A: The ERA is different from DriveABLE in a number of ways. There is no computer component to the ERA. The assessment is conducted in one 90 minute session in a vehicle provided by the driver, rather than a dual-control vehicle. The ERA consists of a pre-trip vehicle orientation, on-road drive, and post-trip review. The on-road drive includes a feedback component, which gives drivers an opportunity to improve their driving for the remainder of the assessment.

Q: Will there be an in-office computer based screening?

A: No. There is no in-office computer based screening during the ERA. The ERA consists of a pre-trip vehicle orientation, on-road drive, and post-trip review of the results.

Q: Will RoadSafetyBC continue to pay for DriveABLE assessments?

A: No. RoadSafetyBC will not pay for any DriveABLE assessments completed after February 28, 2018.

Q: Will RoadSafetyBC pay for the ERA?

A: Yes. There is no cost to the driver for the ERA. However, if there are fees or fines owing to ICBC, these will be required to be paid.

Q: How does this affect my practice?

A: If you feel your patient requires a driving assessment due to cognitive impairment or other medical condition, you may recommend that RoadSafetyBC refer your patient for an ERA. RoadSafetyBC will no longer refer drivers to DriveABLE. If you refer your patient directly to DriveABLE, RoadSafetyBC will not pay for the assessment or use the results to make a licensing decision.

RoadSafetyBC requests that medical professionals continue to provide detailed information by completing and submitting the updated [Report of a Condition Affecting Fitness and Ability to Drive](#) form, which no longer lists DriveABLE as a recommendation, or when your patient brings a [Driver's Medical Examination Report](#) to you for completion. Providing as much detail as possible will assist our Nurse Case Managers and Adjudicators in making informed decisions.

Q: Will DriveABLE assessments or other private company screening results be accepted by RoadSafetyBC?

A: Reports from private companies that are not RoadSafetyBC approved service providers will not be used to make licensing decisions. As of March 1, 2018, neither DriveABLE nor Insight Driver Fitness will be approved RoadSafetyBC service providers.

Q: Does RoadSafetyBC recommend that medical professionals refer their patients for screening and on-road assessments provided by private companies?

A: No, RoadSafetyBC does not endorse the use of service providers who are not RoadSafetyBC approved. As the provincial licensing authority, RoadSafetyBC collects and considers information from medical professionals, police, other reliable third parties and driving records, to determine if further assessment or screening is appropriate and required.

Q: How does the ERA assess drivers with cognitive impairment?

A: The ERA consists of tasks designed to be similar to the cognitive demand of real-world driving. The driver examiner will assess whether the driver is able to maintain basic driving skills while having to complete driving tasks that increase cognitive load. RoadSafetyBC will then review the results of the ERA, along with all other relevant information on the driver's file, and make a licensing decision. For a detailed description the ERA components, please see the [Enhanced Road Assessment \(ERA\) Description](#).

Q: When will RoadSafetyBC begin using the ERA?

A: RoadSafetyBC began referring drivers to the ERA on January 2, 2018. ERA assessments will commence on March 5, 2018.

Q: What if my patient was referred for a DriveABLE assessment by RoadSafetyBC?

A: If a driver has been referred to DriveABLE by RoadSafetyBC, they must complete the assessment with the results submitted to RoadSafetyBC within the timeframe given in their referral letter. The last day a driver may take a RoadSafetyBC requested DriveABLE assessment is February 28, 2018. RoadSafetyBC will not pay for any DriveABLE assessments completed after February 28, 2018.

Q: If I recommend to RoadSafetyBC that a patient complete an ERA, will I receive a copy of the results?

A: No, ICBC will not send ERA results to physicians in order to protect patient privacy. The results are forwarded to RoadSafetyBC, where a licensing decision is made based on all of the relevant information on the driver's file. The driver will receive a copy of the ERA scoring sheet after their assessment.

Q: What are the outcomes for the driver after the ERA?

A: After a driver takes an ERA, the results are forwarded to RoadSafetyBC where they are reviewed, along with all other information related to the driver's medical fitness to drive, to make a licensing decision. In the meantime, the driver may retain their driver's licence or be issued a learner's driver's licence. A learner's driver's licence may be issued if there were traffic violations or Dangerous Action during the ERA. The driver will be advised in writing of the licensing decision, or whether an additional ERA or other medical information is required.

Q: Will the driver's ability to remember multiple step directions be considered when RoadSafetyBC makes a licensing decision?

A: The focus of the ERA is on functional driving skills, rather than on the ability to complete tasks. The results will indicate whether driving errors were made during particular tasks, including the multiple step direction task, but the ability to recall multiple step directions is not given a score. If there are safety concerns, this will be noted in the ERA results and considered by RoadSafetyBC in the overall decision making process. The ERA results are considered along with all other relevant information on the driver's file, which may include information from medical professionals, police, family members, and the individual's driving record.

Q: Will drivers still be required to complete a Driver Medical Examination Report (DMER) at age 80 and every two years thereafter?

A: Yes. When a driver reaches age 80 and every 2 years thereafter, they will continue to be required to have a DMER completed by their physician and submitted to RoadSafetyBC. However, this does not mean they will be required to take an ERA, or other assessment. RoadSafetyBC will review the information provided in the DMER, along with all other relevant information on file, and determine whether further information or assessment is required. Referrals to the ERA will be made based on the entirety of the information on a driver's file, which may include information from medical professionals, police, and the individual's driving record.