

RoadSafetyBC Adoption of the 2016 CCMTA Guide and Content Updates from the 2017 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** was based on Version 13 of the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers and was supplemented with BC specific information and guidelines.

In July of 2017, Version 14 of the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers was released. This version included language, content and some “National Standard” revisions in sections 9, 14, 16 17, 18 and 22. In adding this new content to the BC Guide RoadSafetyBC took the opportunity to complete some minor content housekeeping throughout the document along more substantive revision in sections 1 and 2. In this revised document the year has been removed from the title.

1. Rationale behind RoadSafetyBC adopting the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines

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 Driver medical Fitness reference material.

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 a member of the national Driver Fitness Overview Group; and this provides us the opportunity to have 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. Benefits of adopting the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines 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 CCMTA Standards provides a better process for maintaining the currency of content. This also enables greater consistency in the approach of assessing individual drivers across Canada, which assists in licensing reciprocity decisions between Canadian jurisdictions.

Implementation, and the ongoing updates to the CCMTA Standards, reflects RoadSafetyBC’s continuing commitment to public safety while allowing the maximum driving privilege possible. The formatting of CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines are user friendly and navigation is intuitive. (i.e. chapters are ordered alphabetically and medical condition charts are located at the beginning of each sub chapter for quick reference). [Quick Link for Medical Professionals](#)

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 14 of the CCMTA Medical Standards for Drivers Guide to create the **BC Guide**

The **BC Guide** has been developed for BC as the Licensing Authority Guide and should 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 BC Driver Fitness Advisory Group regarding the potential adoption of the CCMTA Guide occurred in April, June, and October 2015 as well as between January and March of 2016.

In October 2015 the BC 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 addressed.

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

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

The **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