

What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment your results will be discussed with you, and we will provide a recommendation about your safety to drive. At this point we can also discuss arrangements for modifications, driving tuition, or alternative vehicle purchase.

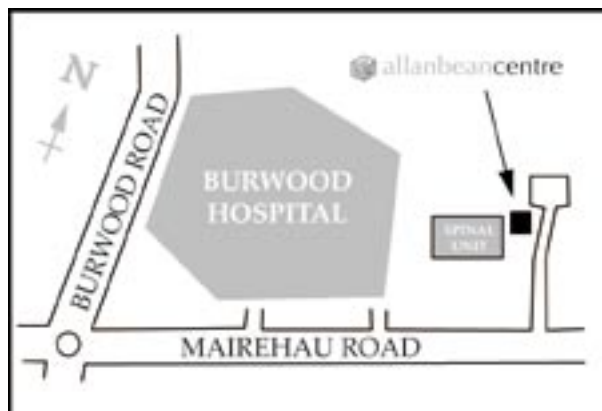
Reports will be sent to your GP and other appropriate parties e.g. ACC. You may wish to discuss the outcome with your usual medical practitioner.



Where to find us

The Driving and Vehicle Assessment Service is located at the Allan Bean Centre, Burwood Hospital.

The entrance is sign posted "Spinal Injury Unit" and is the 3rd exit off Mairehau Road when travelling from the city. (SIGN POSTED "ENTRANCE No: 3")



How to contact us

Driving and Vehicle Assessment Service
Burwood Hospital
Occupational Therapy Dept.
Mairehau Road
CHRISTCHURCH

Telephone: (03) 383 6845

Fax: (03) 383 6825

Email: occthy@cdhb.govt.nz

Burwood Hospital Driving and Vehicle Assessment Service



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Allan Bean Centre, Burwood Hospital

Why am I being assessed?

The ability to drive safely can be reduced due to illness or injury at any stage throughout your life.

The Driving and Vehicle Assessment Service will provide an objective assessment of your driving capability when medical fitness to drive is in question.

Our purpose is to advise you about your driving and to make recommendations about a return to, or continuation of, driving. We can also advise of any modifications that may be needed.

The demands of driving a car today are greater than they have ever been. It is important that we are responsible for driving in a manner which ensures both our own safety and the safety of other road users.

We can advise people with disabilities how to drive safely with or without modifications.



Your doctor, or the person referring you, should have explained why they have referred you for a driving assessment.

You were referred for a driving assessment by:

.....

If you have any questions about this referral please feel free to talk to us.

What is the Assessment Procedure?

The driving assessment consists of 2 parts:

- **An off-road assessment**
- **An on-road practical driving assessment**

Each part of the assessment takes about 90 minutes to complete. A family member, friend or support person is encouraged to be present.



Please bring your drivers licence with you, driving glasses if you wear them, and the results of any recent eye test.

If your drivers licence has expired or due to expire before your appointment please let us know ASAP.

Off Road Assessment

This assessment begins with an interview to discuss any issues you may be having with driving. We also collect some background information, such as:

- **The type of car you drive**
- **Where you normally drive**
- **Your current licence status**
- **How often you drive**
- **What difficulties you may be having driving your car**

Following this your vision will be checked and a few simple tests completed to check your physical abilities (your movements, strength and coordination). We will also look at other factors

which may be affecting your driving such as muscle strength, endurance, pain and fatigue.

You will also be asked to carry out some computerised tests to look at your:



- **Hand and eye coordination** (for steering accuracy)
- **Arm and leg reaction times** (for braking and steering)
- **Visual perception**
- **Thinking speed**
- **Concentration**

On Road Assessment

The on-road assessment checks your ability to drive in real life situations. It can be undertaken in a dual controlled car which the driving service provides, or in your own car if appropriate.

Both manual and automatic vehicles are available.

On the drive you will be accompanied by an occupational therapist and a driving instructor. The instructor will sit beside you to give you directions about where to drive.

A typical assessment will involve driving in different traffic conditions and situations such as suburban roads, shopping areas, open roads and town centre areas. This part of the assessment usually lasts approx 60 minutes.