

Law Enforcement Guide to Identifying Medically At-Risk Drivers and Cognitive Impairment

Medical or Cognitive Impairment Signs

- Difficulty communicating / answering questions or not making sense.
- Confused when following instructions or has difficulty producing identification.
- Difficulty recalling the time, day of week, month or year.
- Unaware of surroundings and other vehicles or pedestrians.
- Does not know / understand the laws that were violated.

NOTE: Multiple health conditions can mimic DUII.

Impairment Indicators *(include in report)*

- Seizure, blackout, loss of consciousness.
- Impairment of consciousness including hallucinations / delusions.
- Confusion / disorientation.
- Lack of rational thought *(describe in report)*.
- Attempted suicide / harm to others.
- Unexplained loss of vision.
- Vision concern *(describe in report)*.
- Prescription medication / substance impairment.
- Diabetic episode *(describe in report)*.
- Fell asleep while driving.
- Lost while driving.
- Multiple scrapes / dings on vehicle.
- Mental health instability *(describe in report)*.
- Physical impairment *(describe in report)*.
- Weakness / poor coordination *(describe in report)*.
- Walking / balancing problems.

Unsafe or Dangerous Driving Behaviors

- Driving the wrong way on a one-way street.
- Driving in an on-coming traffic lane.
- Failing to stop or yield to other traffic.
- Making unsafe turns, especially left turns.
- Driving off the road.

Look for *Impairment Indicators* that raise red flags.

Questions to Ask the Driver

- Where are you going?
- Where are you coming from?
- What town/city/state are we in now?
- What is the day of the week, month, year, time of day?
- What is your home address?
- What is your date of birth?
- Are you taking any medications?

When appropriate, issue a citation or written warning. *Doing so documents the driving behavior for future reference by other officers, DMV, and the Office of Administrative Hearings, among others.*

When there is reason to believe the driver may not be able to drive safely, report them to DMV via the Driver Evaluation Request. *For more information, see the Oregon **At-Risk Reporting for Law Enforcement** webpage.*

Additional Resources

- NHTSA Video - **Law Enforcement: Cite and Refer Medically Impaired Drivers**
- At-Risk Reporting for Law Enforcement webpage
- At-Risk Reporting for Law Enforcement brochure *(see webpage)*
- At-Risk Program Coordinator: 503-945-5295