

APPENDIX A



Driver Medical Standards Policy Document

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out the legal requirement for local authorities to only grant a hackney and/or a private hire driver's licence when they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to do so. The legislation does not provide a definition of what is a fit person however guidance was provided by the Department for Transport (DFT) in their publication "Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance - March 2010".

"It is clearly good practice for medical checks to be made on each driver before the initial grant of a licence and thereafter for each renewal. There is general recognition that it is appropriate for taxi/PHV drivers to have more stringent medical standards than those applicable to normal car drivers because:

- *they carry members of the general public who have expectations of a safe journey;*
- *they are on the road for longer hours than most car drivers; and*
- *they may have to assist disabled passengers and handle luggage.*

It is common for licensing authorities to apply the "Group 2" medical standards – applied by DVLA to the licensing of lorry and bus drivers – to taxi and PHV drivers. This seems best practice."

Like most local authorities, Halton Borough Council accepted the guidance provided by the DFT and adopted the DVLA Group 2 Medical Standard for all of its licensed drivers (with minor differences to the frequency of renewal assessments) as part of its own policy along with the following requirements:

DVLA Group 2 Medicals for driving hackney carriages and private hire vehicles licensed by Halton Borough Council will only be accepted where they were undertaken and the certificate correctly completed and signed by either of the following:

1. The applicants own registered medical practitioner (or another registered medical practitioner from the same practice or group practice) who has access to your medical history can conduct the medical examination and complete the certificate of fitness
2. The Council's preferred Occupational Health facility, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust which is based at Hollins Park House, Hollins Lane, Winwick, Warrington, WA2 8WA

Medical assessments are required as follows:

- When making an application to become a licensed hackney carriage/private hire driver for the first time
- After the initial application a further medical assessment is required when renewing an application prior to turning 45 (you will reach age 45 years during the licence period for which you are applying for)
- Then every 6 years with the renewal application
- When renewing an application prior to turning 65 (you will reach age 65 years during the licence period for which you are applying for)
- After the age of 65 a medical will be required every 2 years
- A licence-holder may be required to have medical assessments more frequently if stated by the medical examiner at a previous medical examination
- Where an existing licence-holder has declared a medical condition that requires a further assessment to confirm they meet the DVLA Group 2 Standards*
- Where there is reasonable evidence to suggest a licensed driver may not reach the DVLA Group 2 Standards*

*This decision will be made by the Licensing Manager in accordance with the current guidance provided by the DVLA publication "Assessing Fitness to Drive - A Guide for Medical Professionals".

The DVLA Group 2 Medical Assessment is undertaken as private work due to it not provided free by the NHS. The cost will be met by the applicant direct to whoever conducts the assessment and is not included in any part of the licensing fee.

Driver Medical Assessment Policy Implementation Document

Where can a medical assessment be undertaken?

DVLA Group 2 Medicals for driving hackney carriages and private hire vehicles licensed by Halton Borough Council will only be accepted where they were undertaken and the certificate signed by either of the following:

1. The applicants own registered medical practitioner (or another registered medical practitioner from the same practice or group practice) who has access to your medical history can conduct the medical examination and complete the certificate of fitness
2. The Council's preferred Occupational Health facility, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust which is based at Hollins Park House, Hollins Lane, Winwick, Warrington, WA2 8WA. Tel 01925 664071

What do I need to take to a medical assessment?

If you are undertaking your medical assessment at your own medical practice then you will need to take a medical assessment pack which will be provided to you by the licensing section. The pack will contain notes about the medical, a medical assessment sheet and certificate for the medical examiner to complete.

If you book your medical assessment with North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust then you only need to take photo identification with you on the day of the assessment i.e. DVLA Driver's licence or valid passport.

When are medicals required?

A successful DVLA Group 2 Medical Assessment is required as follows:

- When making an application to become a licensed hackney carriage/private hire driver for the first time
- After the initial application a further medical assessment is required when renewing an application prior to turning 45 (you will reach age 45 years during the licence period for which you are applying for)
- Then every 6 years with the renewal application
- After the initial application a further medical assessment is required every 6 years with the renewal application
- When renewing an application prior to turning 65 (you will reach age 65 years during the licence period for which you are applying for)
- After the age of 65 a medical will be required every 2 years
- A licence-holder may be required to have medical assessments more frequently if stated by the medical examiner at a previous medical examination. The licence may be suspended and/or revoked if this is not complied with
- Where an existing licence-holder has declared a medical condition that requires a further assessment to confirm they meet the DVLA Group 2 Standards*. Depending on the nature of the medical matter the licence may be suspended until such time

that the DVLA Group 2 standard is met. In some circumstances the licence may be revoked due to the severity of the condition.

- Where there is reasonable evidence to suggest a licensed driver may not reach the DVLA Group 2 Standards*. The licence-holder will be advised in writing of what is required in order to satisfy the licensing section that they do meet the DVLA Group standard. A reasonable decision will be taken based on the individual circumstances as well guidance from the DVLA's current publication.

*This decision will be made by the Licensing Manager in accordance with the current guidance provided by the DVLA publication "Assessing Fitness to Drive - A Guide for Medical Professionals".

What does this cost?

There is no set cost for a DVLA Group 2 medical assessment which means that you should ask this question before booking. North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will require payment before an appointment is given anyway. Some medical centres in Halton do the same but not all.

What is the difference between my own medical practice and North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust?

In most circumstances the choice is entirely up to the applicant or licence-holder, however please note that not all medical centres in Halton will undertake this medical assessment. If this is the case there is no alternative but to book your medical assessment with North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.