



The goal of DriveWise at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is to provide objective information about driving safety while providing support for individuals and their families.

For more information about DriveWise, please call (617) 667-4074.

DriveWise®
617-667-4074
bidmc.org/drivewise

DriveWise®



What is DriveWise®?

Recognized as a national model, DriveWise offers an objective evaluation of driving safety for people of all ages who have experienced neurological, psychological and/or physical impairments.

Because driving is important to one's independence, health care providers and family members are careful not to end driving privileges prematurely. On the other hand, delaying this decision can jeopardize safety.

DriveWise was developed by the divisions of Cognitive Neurology and Occupational Therapy at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to help with this difficult decision making process.

The DriveWise professionals are a multidisciplinary team of social workers, occupational therapists and neuropsychologists. This unique team approach results in a thorough examination of driving performance.

What steps does the DriveWise® evaluation include?

- 1 Social Work Assessment**
The participant meets with a clinical social worker who reviews the role of driving in the individual's life. Family members are strongly encouraged to participate in this meeting.
- 2 Occupational Therapy Assessment**
The participant's physical, visual and cognitive abilities are assessed by the occupational therapist using research based standardized tests.
- 3 On-Road Evaluation**
The occupational therapist and a certified driving instructor assess actual driving performance and safety during a standardized on-road evaluation using the driving instructor's car. This vehicle can be adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- 4 Follow-up with Social Worker**
A detailed written summary with recommendations from the team is reviewed with the participant. The report is sent to the referring physician. Educational materials on driving, transportation alternatives, and/or referral to driving programs can be provided.

Who can benefit from DriveWise®?

Individuals of any age who have cognitive or motor problems that compromise driving safety may benefit from DriveWise.

How are referrals made?

Physicians, family members or the participant can make a referral by calling DriveWise at (617) 667-4074. Relevant medical information is requested.

What is the cost of the program?

DriveWise is fee for service. Current costs are available online at bidmc.org/drivewise or by calling 617-667-4074. Please check with your own insurance plan regarding possible coverage.

What happens if it is not safe for a participant to continue driving?

If driving cessation is recommended as a result of the evaluation, practical and emotional support is provided by the clinical social worker and alternative methods of transportation are identified.

What is the relationship between DriveWise® and the Registry of Motor Vehicles?

If the participant is not safe to drive and does not follow the recommendation to stop driving, the DriveWise team may report findings to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

