



Adaptive Driving for Persons with Physical Limitations

Driver Rehabilitation Programs

According to the Association of Driver Educators for the Disabled, a driver rehabilitation program should have a qualified driver rehabilitation specialist, the appropriate vehicle(s), and equipment to provide comprehensive services in the following areas:

1. Clinical Evaluation – applicable testing in the area of physical functioning and visual/perceptual/cognitive screening. Where applicable, a wheelchair/seating assessment should be completed.
2. Driving Evaluation – shall include an on-the-road performance assessment of the client in an actual driving environment using equipment similar to the prescribed equipment.
3. Vehicle Modification/Prescription – all prescriptions shall be based on the client's demonstrated performance in an actual driving experience with equipment similar to that which is being prescribed. The prescription should include appropriate description and dimensions of the client's vehicle and mobility aid (wheelchair, scooter).
4. Driver Education – shall include sufficient practice and training to enable the client to operate a motor vehicle with the prescribed equipment at a level that

meets the client's need for a driver's license.

5. Final Fitting – the client shall receive a final fitting and operational assessment in their modified vehicle.

Adaptive Driving Aids/Modifications

With the use of appropriate adaptive aids an individual with most types of physical disability can continue to drive safely. A variety of devices are available to meet the individual driver's needs and preferences. The following is a list of the more common modifications available. They should be tried in an actual driving situation before making a final decision. (For liability issues work with a certified adaptive driving specialist).

Automatic transmission – replaces clutch and manual shift

Power Steering – permits one-hand steering wheel operation

Power Brakes – needed for hand controls and other adaptive aids

Steering Devices – spinner knob, amputee ring, quad fork, tri pin, or custom device

Floor Mounted Steering – floor steering wheel for foot control

Modified Effort Steering – reduces strength needed to operate power steering or brake to accommodate low strength and/or endurance.

Left Foot Accelerator – eliminates left leg cross-over

Foot Pedal Extensions – raises height of brake and accelerator

Hand Controls – control operates brake/accelerator with single lever and activates secondary controls (horn, wipers, turn signals, etc.) * temporary or mounted hand controls are not recommended by Veterans

Administration

Electric Gear Selector – permits left hand operation

Right Hand Turn Signal – permits right hand operation without cross-over

Remote Switches – reposition or build up secondary controls (horn, wipers, turn signals, etc.) to accommodate driver's specific disability

Seat Belts – shoulder and lap belt adjustments may be needed

Power Seats – eases access for transferring to a regular captain's seat

Custom Seats – creates balance, positioning, and stability

Lifts and Ramps – permits access into and out of vehicle

Wheelchair/Scooter Lifts – assists in lifting wheelchairs and scooters in and out of vehicles

Wheelchair Carriers – permits carrying of wheelchair outside of vehicle

Vehicle Selection

When choosing a vehicle for transportation there are several areas to

consider. Your doctor, physical therapist or occupation therapist will have input and can help answer any questions, but a certified adaptive driving specialist can assist in making a vehicle selection with completion of the driver rehabilitation program.

Following are some areas to consider:

- What are your transportation needs? Do you need a car, truck, full-size van or mini-van? Are you able to take public transportation?
- What are your physical limitations that will effect your ability to access a vehicle or drive?
- Will you be a driver or passenger?
- Will you be able to handle the mental and physical stress of driving?
- What is your ability to transfer into and out of the vehicle?
- Will you require an assistive seat or lift to get into or out of the vehicle?
- If you require a lift, what options do you prefer? Side door or rear door entrance/exit; electric; hydraulic; platform swing out or superarm, etc.?
- Do you require a lowered floor or raised top and doors? What is your height, head to ground when sitting, and the length and width of your wheelchair or scooter?
- Will you drive from a wheelchair or use a power seat?
- Will you need special modifications to operate the vehicle?

- What are the services & warranty programs on your vehicle of choice? What parts are covered, and where can emergency repair work be done if you are out of town?
- What alternative funding sources are you eligible for (Veteran's Administration, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities Services, or Insurance – Health or Workman's Compensation)?
- Have you checked with a qualified accountant to determine eligibility for tax credits for modifications?
- Have you checked with the manufacturer for information on a rebate program to help pay for modifications?
- Did you check with the dealer for a finance package?

Colorado Modification Vendors

Adaptive Automobility
 333 E. 76th Avenue
 Denver, CO 80229
 303/288-6342
 800/748-3695

FreeWheel Vans, Inc.
 4901 Ward Rd
 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
 303/467-9981

Handicaps, Inc.
 4335 S Santa Fe Dr
 Englewood, CO 80110
 303/781-4544
 800/782-4335

Morning Star Mobility, Inc.
 3508 E St Vrain
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 719/380-1200
 800/854-7463

Morning Star Mobility, Inc.
 7100 Broadway, #7-A
 Denver, CO 80221
 303/412-8700

Colorado Adaptive Driving Programs

Behind the Wheel Rehabilitation
 Driving Program
 Columbia Spalding
 Rehabilitation Hospital
 900 Potomac St
 Aurora, CO 80011
 303/367-1166

Capron Rehabilitation
 2215 N Cascade Ave
 Colorado Springs, CO 80933
 719/776-5200

Craig Hospital
 OT/Driving & Transportation
 3425 Clarkson
 Englewood, CO 80110
 303/789-8218
 limited participation, doctor's orders
 required

Front Range Driving School
 PO Box 253
 Longmont, CO 80502
 303/772-6050

McKee Medical Center

1824 W Vine Dr
Fort Collins, CO 80521
970/635-4179

Rocky Mountain Rehab
900 Potomac
Aurora, CO 80011
303/363-5351

VAMC
1055 Clermont
Denver, CO 80231
303/393-2819

Other Resources

Adaptive Mobility Services
2201A E Michigan St
Orlando, FL 32856
407/897-7074

American Automobile Association
Adaptive Driving School
4100 E Arkansas
Denver, CO 80222
303/753-8800

American Driver & Traffic Safety
Education Association
800 Florida Ave, NE Gallaudet
Salisbury, MD 21801
301/850-0075

Assistive Technology Partners
601 E. 18th Avenue, Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203
303/315-1280 Main
800/255-3477 within Colorado
303/837-8964 TTY
303/837-1208 FAX
www.uchsc.edu/atp

Assistive Technology Partners
Western Slope Technical Assistance
Center (WesTAC)
2897 North Ave., Module 3A
Grand Junction, CO 81501
970/248-0876 Main
970/248-0877 FAX/TTY
www.uchsc.edu/atp

Association of Driver Educators
PO Box 49
Edgerton, WI 53534
608/884-8833

Braun Corp
1014 S Monticello, PO Box 310
Winamac, IN 46996
800/843-5438

Bruno Independent Aids
1780 Executive Dr, PO Box 84
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
800/882-8183

Chrysler Motors
Physically Challenged Resource Center
800/255-9877

Dept of Veterans Affairs
Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Services
Mailing Code 117C
Washington, DC 20420
202/535-7293

Ford Motor Company
Mobility Motoring Program
800/952-2248
800/833-0312 (TTY)

General Motors

Mobility Assistance Center
800/323-9935
800/833-9935 (TTY)

Handicapped Driver's Mobility Guide
American Automobile Association
4100 E Arkansas
Denver, CO 80222
303/753-8800

National Mobility Equipment
Dealers Association
909 E Skagway Ave
Tampa, FL 33604
813/932-8566

RESNA
1100 Connecticut Ave
Washington, DC 22209
202/857-1199

Volkswagen
Mobility Access Program
800/444-8987

**For more information contact:
Assistive Technology Partners
601 East 18th Avenue, Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203**

**303.315.1280 office
303.837.1208 fax
303.837.3477 TTY
800.255.3477 toll free**

**generalinfo@at-partners.org
www.assistivetechologypartners.org**

This publication may be reproduced without the written permission of ATP
provided that the source is appropriately credited.