

Avenues Driving Rehabilitation Program

Dear Interested Participant,

Thank you for your inquiry for information about the Driving Program at Avenues Driving Rehabilitation Program.

Enclosed is information about our program and the forms that need to be completed by individuals requesting a driving evaluation:

1. **Pre-Admission Form**: To be completed and returned.
2. **Prescription Form**: The driving specialist is an occupational therapist who is required to work under a Physician's order. If necessary, we will assist in obtaining this documentation.
3. **Location**: Please note, wheelchair access is only offered at the front side of the building (closest to 87th St). Enter the building and use the elevator to reach the 2nd floor. We are located in Suite 203.

The cost of the specialty driving program evaluation is \$450.00. There are additional costs if driver training is recommended. Those charges are based upon \$90.00 per hour.

We do not bill Medicare or commercial insurance for this particular service. Payment must be made at the time of the appointment. If the participant feels their insurance may pay, they can submit the required documentation for pre-certification and/or reimbursement directly to their insurance provider. If you have a flexible spending benefit, we will work with you to utilize this as a payment.

Please Note: If the participant has a legal guardian or someone has power of attorney over you, please enclose a copy of the legal documents when returning the packet. Also, the guardian or legal representative should accompany the participant to the first visit in order to complete consent paperwork. If this does not apply, please ignore this request.

Following is some information you will find helpful to participate in our Driving Program.

- You **must** bring your driver's license or learner's permit to the evaluation.
- If you wear glasses and they are a restriction on your license/permit, **you must bring them to the evaluation.**
- Please bring a **written list of medications** you are currently taking.
- You will be driving a Avenues Driving Rehabilitation Program vehicle, a mid-size car with automatic transmission.
- It is recommended you bring someone with you to the appointment

- **Payment for services rendered is expected regardless of the results of the evaluation or the recommendations of the program.**

The evaluation will consist of two parts and takes approximately three (3) hours to complete.

Clinical Assessment: This will be the initial portion of the evaluation. Areas evaluated are driving history, upper and lower extremity function, reaction times, vision, cognitive skills, reading comprehension, problem solving, traffic sign recognition, processing speed and basic decision-making abilities.

Behind the Wheel Assessment: The behind the wheel evaluation typically begins in a parking lot and progresses to residential, commercial and interstate areas as safety allows. The results of the clinical and behind the wheel evaluation will be discussed at the end of the evaluation process. If you have a need to drive with adaptive equipment, you will be scheduled to return for additional driver training.

I hope this is helpful. If you have additional questions, please call **Patty Draskovich at 913-272-1710.**

Sincerely,

Kristin Nichols, OTR/L, SCDCM, CDRS
Driving Program Director

About Kristin Nichols OTR/L, SCDCM, CDRS

Kristin earned her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and Psychology. She has held credentials as a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist from the Association of Driving Rehabilitation Specialist since 2002. She is also 1 of 12 Occupational Therapists nationally, who has a Specialty Certification in Driving and Community Mobility through the American Occupational Therapy Association.

While involved in driving rehabilitation, she has served clients who have ranged from novice to mature drivers. It is the medical condition and functional challenges, rather than the age of the driver, that remain her focus when helping clients resume driving independence after a medical event. Kristin serves on the Board of Directors for *Americans for Older Driver Safety*, is a committee member for the *Older Driver Emphasis Area Team* with the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Sub-Committee for Elder Mobility for Missouri's Department of Transportation and is on the Expert Panel for the *Healthy Aging Coalition of Kansas City*. She was also recently awarded the People Saving People Award in 2017 by the Kansas Department of Transportation.