

## **Is There a Test That Can Determine if Someone is a Safe Driver?**

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There is no single, simple test to determine if someone is a safe driver. However, there are tests for reflexes, vision, flexibility, and visual attention- all critical skills for driving. A doctor may refer the driver to a qualified specialist for an assessment of driving skills. These tests last for several hours and often include a road test with an evaluator present.

Administered by rehabilitation centers, hospitals, and Veterans Administration Medical Centers; these tests can cost from \$200 to \$1,000 and are seldom covered by insurance or Medicare. The Veterans Administration may offer free tests for eligible veterans.

A formal assessment may seem threatening to an older driver, especially if it is either pass or fail. Some older adults prefer assessments that give them tips on being a better safer driver.

Drivers who pass the test will receive recommendations on improving skills, avoiding certain driving situations, useful equipment [e.g. wide range mirrors, pedal extensions] and an interval for re-testing. The tests are shared with the driver and possibly with the driver's physician, if requested. Results are not shared with a licensing authority unless so ordered by the court.

For more information: [www.thehartford.com/talkaboutolderdrivers](http://www.thehartford.com/talkaboutolderdrivers)