
APPENDIX B: MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENTS

DIABETES POLICY STATEMENT

For School Bus, 7D, and School Pupil Transport Vehicles

Approved by the Registry of Motor Vehicles Medical Advisory Board on March 24, 2008 and recommended to the Registrar for adoption on the same date.

The following standard is applicable to all persons applying for a DPU SCHOOL BUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATE OR 7D OR SCHOOL PUPIL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE.

For the purpose of this standard, the approving physician must be a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist. A “serious hypoglycemic event” is defined as a hypoglycemic episode or event so severe that it interfered with on-going activities or it required the assistance or aid of another person. “Hypoglycemic unawareness” is defined as the inability to recognize the early symptoms of hypoglycemia such as sweating, anxiety, forceful heartbeat, light-headedness, and/or confusion.

The Registrar, or her designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant's or licensee's medical qualification criteria as she deems appropriate, or may modify this standard as an individual case may require.

A. DIABETES STANDARD:

(1) Diabetic licensees or applicants are eligible to receive a DPU School Bus Operator Certificate or 7D or School Pupil Transport Certificate if:

- (a) The individuals have never had a hypoglycemic episode or spell (as certified by the physician); and
- (b) The individuals do not use insulin to control their diabetes.

(2) Diabetic licensees or applicants who use insulin to control their diabetes or have had a serious hypoglycemic event are eligible to receive a DPU School Bus Operator Certificate or 7D School Pupil Transport Certificate upon meeting the following conditions:

- (a) The individual possesses a currently valid operator's driver license;
- (b) The individual is not diagnosed with “hypoglycemic unawareness”;
- (c) The individual has not had a “serious hypoglycemic event” as certified by a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist within the last three years.
- (d) The individual provides a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist with a complete written medical history including, but not limited to, the date insulin use began, all hospitalization reports, consultation notes for diagnostic examinations, all results of studies conducted for diabetes, and follow-up reports and reports of any hypoglycemic insulin reactions within the last three years.

- (e) The individual is examined by a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist every six months and a complete School Pupil Transport Diabetes Medical Evaluation Form, issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles, is 1) certified by the examining endocrinologist, 2) signed by the license applicant and 3) submitted to the RMV every six months.
- (f) The examining endocrinologist signed statement on the School Pupil Transport Diabetes Medical Evaluation Form certifies the following medical determinations:
- (i) The endocrinologist is familiar with the applicant's medical history for the past three years either through actual treatment over that time or through consultation with a physician who has treated the applicant during that time. Review of a complete written medical history for the past three years may be substituted for actual consultation with the other physician;
 - (ii) If applicable, the applicant has been on a stable insulin regimen to control his/her diabetes on the date of application;
 - (iii) The applicant does not have serious hypoglycemic events or altered consciousness that interfere with on-going activities or require the assistance of another person to regain control;
 - (iv) The applicant does not have hypoglycemic unawareness or the inability to recognize the early symptoms of hypoglycemia (such as sweating, anxiety, forceful heartbeat, light-headedness and/or confusion);
 - (v) Within the past three years, the applicant has not had an hypoglycemic reaction, at any time, that resulted in any change in mental status that would have been, in the examining endocrinologist's opinion, detrimental to the safe operation of a school bus or a school pupil transport vehicle;
 - (vi) Complications of the applicant's diabetic condition, such as neuropathy, visual impairment or cognitive impairment will not adversely affect his/her ability to operate a school bus or a school pupil transport vehicle.
 - (vii) The applicant has been educated in diabetes and its management, thoroughly informed of and understands the procedures which must be followed to monitor and manage his/her diabetes and what procedures should be followed if complications arise by a National Standard for Diabetes Self-Management Education Program; and
 - (viii) The applicant has the ability and has demonstrated willingness to properly monitor and manage his/her diabetes including signing the School Pupil Transport Diabetes Medical Evaluation Form, as witnessed by the treating endocrinologist, that the applicant understands his/her medical regime and agrees to comply with all criteria concerning eligibility for the 7D School Pupil Transport Certificate or School Bus Certificate.
- (g) The following special conditions are required for the issuance of a 7D School Pupil Transport Certificate or School Bus Operator Certificate to any driver who uses insulin to control his/her diabetes. Each driver must:
- (i) Carry, use, and record, in a log, the readings from a portable self-monitoring blood-glucose device (SMBG) that is equipped with a computerized memory including date and time of test. Blood glucose monitoring must be performed immediately prior to driving and every four hours thereafter while on duty. Paper tapes generated by SMBGs having a printing capability may be used in lieu of a log prepared by the driver. Log records of blood glucose values (with

- time and date) must be available to law enforcement or authorized registry personnel upon request. Log records must also be submitted to the certifying endocrinologist for each renewal application;
- (ii) Carry upon your person at all times and use, as necessary, a source of rapidly absorbable glucose;
 - (iii) Not operate a school bus or a school pupil transport vehicle unless blood glucose measures within the target parameters of 80 and 350;
 - (a) If blood glucose measures between 60 and 79 then operator cannot drive school children until blood glucose measure is within the target parameters defined above;
 - (b) If blood glucose measures below 60 then the operator cannot drive school children until certified as "safe to operate" by a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist;
 - (c) If blood glucose measures 350 or more, then the operator cannot operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle until certified as "safe to operate" by a Massachusetts board certified or board eligible endocrinologist;
 - (iv) Report and surrender his/her 7D School Pupil Transport Certificate or School Bus Certificate immediately to the Registry of Motor Vehicles if a serious hypoglycemic event should occur;
 - (v) Submit a glucose log within 15 days of a serious hypoglycemic event to the treating endocrinologist;
 - (vi) Acknowledge every six months, through signature and in the presence of their treating endocrinologist, that he/she understands and will adhere to the special conditions of his/her 7D School Pupil Transport Certificate or School Bus Operator Certificate.

EPILEPSY POLICY

As of June 16, 1998:

The following standard is applicable to all persons applying for a **School Bus Operator Certificate** or **7D School Pupil Transport Vehicle Certificate**.

For the purpose of this standard, "physician" is defined as "a medical doctor who is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Registrar, or his designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant or licensee's medical qualification criteria as she deems appropriate, or may modify this standard as an individual case may require.

1. Epilepsy standard:

Any licensee or applicant for a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate who has a current diagnosis of epilepsy is not eligible to receive a certificate or license. The Registry of Motor Vehicles Medical Advisory Board has determined that individuals who have a current diagnosis of epilepsy, even if controlled through treatment, present a significant threat to their own safety and to the safety of the children they are transporting, and may interfere with their ability to perform the duties and responsibilities associated with operating these types of vehicles.

Based upon the advice of the Medical Advisory Board, the Registrar has determined that operators who do not have a current diagnosis of epilepsy have a significantly reduced risk of harm to themselves and to their passengers as well as a reduced risk of impairment while performing the duties and responsibilities associated with operating school pupil transport vehicles, and therefore are eligible to hold a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate, unless the Registrar has cause to believe that such person cannot operate safely in a particular case.

2. Policies applicable to existing school bus operator's certificates and school pupil transport vehicle licenses:

An individual who is unable to meet the medical qualification standards contained in the Vision, Epilepsy, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular/Respiratory Disease Policy Statements of June 16, 1998, but who held a valid school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate as of the effective date of such policy statements, shall be eligible to retain or renew such certificate or license, provided:

1. He or she satisfies the medical qualification standards in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this policy; and
2. He or she provides a certification from his or her physician that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the individual is medically qualified to safely operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle, as the case may be and perform the other functions associated with such operation; and
3. The Registry has no other cause to believe, based upon the individual's driving history or otherwise, that the individual cannot safely operate such motor vehicle.

CARDIOVASCULAR/RESPIRATORY DISEASE POLICY STATEMENT

As of March 2009:

The following standards are applicable to all persons applying for a SCHOOL BUS CERTIFICATE OR 7D SCHOOL PUPIL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE.

For the purpose of these standards, “physician” is defined as “a medical doctor who is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

The Registrar, or her designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant or licensee’s medical qualification criteria as she deems appropriate, or may modify these standards as an individual case may require.

I. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE STANDARDS:

A. A person is not qualified to receive a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate, if such person:

- (1) is classified according to the American Heart Association (AHA) functional classification system as an AHA functional Class III or IV heart patient; OR
- (2) has had an implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD) placed for a “sudden death event” and shall not be eligible for an active school bus certificate or class 7D school pupil transport certificate until a 6-month period during which there is documentation of no episodes of appropriate device firing. Individuals for whom the AICD is placed purely for prophylactic reason will not be subject to this “waiting” period. However, if such individuals are determined to have an AICD that appropriately “fires”, they will be considered the same as an individual who has had a “sudden death event” and be subject to the 6-month period during which there is documentation of no episodes of appropriate device firing.

B. Individuals who have an AICD implanted for a “sudden death event” or are classified as an AHA functional Class III or IV heart patient, may suffer symptoms of cardiac failure with less than ordinary activity. Based upon the advice of the Registry of Motor Vehicles Medical Advisory Board, the Registrar has determined that the duties and responsibilities associated with driving a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle may exacerbate these symptoms thus presenting a risk of harm to both the operator and to the passengers of school buses and school pupil transport vehicles.

C. Change of cardiovascular disease and AICD status:

Individuals who were formerly deemed ineligible to receive a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate due to an inability to meet either or both of the criteria specified above, and who are now able to do so, must submit a written statement from their physician to the Registry which indicates that:

- (a) an AICD implanted for a “sudden death event” has not fired in a six month period or that the AICD was implanted for prophylactic reasons and has not fired in a six month period; and

(b) they are classified as either AHA functional Class I, Class II, or do not have heart disease; and

(c) contains a certification that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, they are medically qualified to operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle safely and fulfill any and all of the duties and responsibilities associated with such operation.

II. RESPIRATORY DISEASE STANDARDS:

A. Any licensee or applicant for a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate, whose O₂ saturation level is greater than 88% at rest or with minimal exertion, with or without supplemental oxygen, will be presumed safe to operate a school bus or class 7D or 7D½ school pupil transport vehicle will continue to be eligible for such certificate or license until such time as the Registry has cause to believe that an individual is unsafe to operate a motor vehicle.

B. Any licensee or applicant for a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate whose O₂ saturation level is 88% or less at rest or with minimal exertion, even with supplemental oxygen, is not eligible for such certificate or license. A licensee whose O₂ saturation level is 88% or less at rest or with minimal exertion, even with supplemental oxygen, shall be required to voluntarily surrender his or her certificate or license, or be subject to suspension or revocation.

C. Based upon the advice of the Registry's Medical Advisory Board, the Registrar has determined that these individuals possess a significant threat of loss of consciousness, cognitive dysfunction, and risk of heart failure at any given time and therefore are unsafe to operate school bus or school pupil transport vehicles and perform the added duties and responsibilities associated with the transportation of school children.

D. Change of O₂ saturation level:

Applicants or licensees whose O₂ saturation level was 88% or less at rest or with minimal exertion, even with supplemental oxygen, and whose saturation level has changed to greater than 88% at rest or with minimal exertion, with or without supplemental oxygen, may be eligible to regain or obtain their licensing privileges by providing the following information from the physician to the Registry:

(1) medical documentation that his or her O₂ saturation level is greater than 88% at rest or with minimal exertion; and

(2) a certification that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, he or she is medically qualified to operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicles and perform the added duties and responsibilities associated with the transportation of school children.

E. Respiratory disease standards: FEV-1 levels (in liters):

Individuals whose FEV-1 level (forced expiratory (respiratory) volume in one second) is 1.2 liters or less will be required to submit an O₂ saturation test result in order to be eligible for a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate. Based upon the advice of the Registry's Medical Advisory Board, the Registrar has determined that individuals whose FEV-1 level is 1.2 liters or less may reasonably be expected to be symptomatic for respiratory or heart failure and therefore require a more extensive evaluation of their ability to operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle safely. Upon receipt of the O₂ saturation test, the Registry shall use the above O₂ saturation level criteria in evaluating the individual's ability to operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle safely.

VISION POLICY STATEMENT

As of June 16, 1998:

The following standards are applicable to all persons applying for a SCHOOL BUS CERTIFICATE OR 7D SCHOOL PUPIL TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE.

For the purpose of these standards, "physician" is defined as "a medical doctor who is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Registrar, or his designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant or licensee's medical qualification criteria as he deems appropriate, or may modify these standards as an individual case may require.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Registry's vision standards are adopted in the context of the following information:

20/20 is excellent visual acuity and 20/200 is legally blind. 20/40 vision is better than 20/50 vision, 20/50 is better than 20/60, 20/60 is better than 20/70, and so on.

The term "at least 20/40," as used in the visual acuity standards means 20/40 or better - 20/40, 20/30, or 20/20 visual acuity would all be acceptable for an unrestricted license. 20/50 or 20/60 would not be acceptable.

180 degrees horizontal peripheral field of vision is a full field of vision. 170 degrees is better than 160 degrees, 160 degrees is better than 150 degrees, and so on.

The term "not less than 120 degrees," as used in the horizontal peripheral field of vision standard means 120 degrees or more- 120 degrees, 130 degrees, or 140 degrees horizontal peripheral field of vision would all be acceptable. 115 degrees or 110 degrees would not be acceptable.

Any time an applicant or licensee uses glasses or contact lenses to meet any of the vision standards, a "B" restriction (corrective lenses) must be put on the license.

THE VISION STANDARDS:

If the applicant cannot meet the following standards, a license is not possible:

A. Visual acuity and horizontal peripheral field of vision standard: At least 20/40 distant visual acuity (Snellen) in each eye, with or without corrective lenses, and not less than 120 degrees combined horizontal peripheral field of vision.

Eligible for a license. A "B" restriction (corrective lenses) must be put on the license when corrective lenses are used to meet this standard.

Applicants or licensees who use bioptic telescopic lenses are ineligible to receive a school bus certificate or 7D school pupil transport certificate.

B. Color vision standard: The individual must be able to distinguish the colors red, green and amber.

If the applicant or licensee cannot distinguish the colors red, green, and amber, a license is not possible.

C. Vision impairment standard: The individual must not have unresolvable diplopia (double vision which cannot be resolved by wearing an eye patch or other suppressive device).

If the applicant or licensee has unresolvable diplopia, a license is not possible.

