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**COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT
POLICY STATEMENT**
as of
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The following minimum standards are applicable to all persons holding or seeking a Class D or a Class M license. Other standards may apply to those holding or seeking a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) (See Federal Regulations). The Commonwealth sets different standards for those seeking a license/certificate to transport school pupils/children. (See Policy Statements specific to School Bus, 7D, and 7D 1/2 licenses).

For the purpose of these standards, "health care provider" is defined as "a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physician, physician's assistant, psychologist, occupational therapist, optometrist, ophthalmologist, osteopath, physical therapist, or podiatrist who is a licensed health care provider under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 90, section 22I."

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

I. Definitions:

Cognitive Impairment: A Cognitive Impairment is defined as any condition that impairs any, or several, of the mental faculties of attention, perception, comprehension, judgment, memory, reasoning, or physical action or response used by a person to understand and interact with the environment.

A Severe Driving-related Cognitive Impairment: A Severe Driving-related Cognitive Impairment is a significant deficit or impairment of any cause, in any of the above faculties, limiting the ability of a licensee or an applicant for a learner's permit or license to exercise appropriate judgment or maintain sustained attention necessary to the safe operation of a motor vehicle such that operating a motor vehicle is likely to produce an unacceptable risk to public safety.

(2) A licensee or an applicant for a license or learner's permit who is medically determined to have a Severe Driving-related Cognitive Impairment shall be deemed ineligible for a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle.

(3) A licensee with a Severe Driving-related Cognitive Impairment shall voluntarily surrender his or her license or the Registry of Motor Vehicles shall suspend or revoke that license.

(4) A health care provider who believes that their patient's Cognitive Impairment is not to the severity as to recommend surrender of the license but believes their patient's driving ability should be tested may request a competency road evaluation administered by the Registry of Motor Vehicles be completed.

(5) A licensee may regain driving privileges upon submission of an evaluation, including an assessment of cognitive function, completed by his or her health care provider in confirming that the licensee, applicant or holder of a learner's permit no longer has a Severe Driving-related Cognitive Impairment. Additionally, the health care provider must state that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty the licensee or license applicant has the cognitive capacity to safely operate a motor vehicle, and that any currently prescribed medications or dosages related to cognitive function are not likely to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle. A health care provider who also believes that their patient's driving ability should be tested before re-licensing may request a competency road evaluation administered by the Registry of Motor Vehicles be completed. The Registry of Motor Vehicles shall determine that the licensee or applicant is eligible for licensure or to be issued a learner's permit.

(6) The Registrar, or his or her designee, may require such additional evidence of the medical qualification criteria relative to a Cognitive Driving-related Impairment as he or she deems appropriate.