



Knowsl@y Council

KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE

MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

1. INTRODUCTION

Any applicant for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence must satisfy the Local Authority regarding their medical fitness, honesty and integrity and fitness to drive.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a Local Authority shall not grant a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence OR to anyone who has not held, for at least twelve months, and is not, at the date of the application, the holder of a full DVLA licence.

2. WHO REQUIRES A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND WHEN

A Medical Examination will be required if the applicant/driver satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

- (i) They are a new applicant;
- (ii) They are currently a driver whose licence has expired by more than a month and have reached the age of 45, 50, 55, 60 or 65 years of age since they were last licensed;
- (iii) They are an existing driver whose renewal falls due on or after their 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th or 65th birthday;
- (iv) They are a lapsed driver whose licence expired 1 month or more ago and their last medical is more than three years old;
- (v) They have reached 65 years of age (ANNUAL MEDICAL REQUIRED THEREAFTER); or
- (vi) They have suffered a DVLA-NOTIFIABLE illness since your last Medical examination.

Any driver, who during the course of being in possession of a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence, or during the process of renewing such a licence, will be required to inform Knowsley MBC Licensing Section immediately upon diagnosis of any DVLA-notifiable medical condition.

Any ongoing DVLA notifiable medical condition that is known to an applicant when applying for a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence, must be disclosed to Knowsley MBC Licensing Section at the time of application. Knowsley MBC Licensing Section may need to seek further advice from a Doctor, or other medical health care professional before a decision can be made as to whether a licence can be granted or not.

Once the medical examination has been carried out, the completed Medical Assessment Questionnaire (Appendix 1) should be returned to the Licensing Service. The Medical Assessment Questionnaire will not be accepted unless all sections of the form have been completed. It must be stamped by the surgery and signed by the medical practitioner who conducted the assessment. A licence will not be issued until a Medical Assessment Questionnaire has been received indicating that the applicant/driver is fit to be a private hire or hackney carriage driver.

Any driver who has a valid Group 2 DVLA licence and is able to provide written evidence of medical compliance will not be required to undergo a further medical to become or renew their hackney or private hire driver's licence.

If an applicant or current driver fails to notify the Licensing Authority of any relevant medical condition or they have notified the DVLA of any such condition or if their Group 2 entitlement has been removed from their licence their hackney carriage or private hire licence may be affected.

If an individual making a first application to be a hackney or private hire driver in Knowsley has already undertaken a medical with another licensing authority and that medical is of the same Group 2 medical standard then they will not be required to take another medical to obtain a drivers licence in Knowsley providing they can provide written evidence of that medical.

3. WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The required medical assessment can be carried out by either:-

- (i) The applicant or drivers' own doctor / medical practitioner; OR
- (ii) Knowsley Council's Occupational Health Unit.

If the applicant or driver decides to have the required medical examination carried out by the Council's Occupational Health Unit then they must book their appointment by attending the Licensing Service based in Huyton One Stop Shop and paying the fee. An appointment will then be made. The office is open to the public Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

4. **MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

Medical standards for drivers of hackney carriage or private hire vehicles are higher than those required for regular car drivers. On 14 July 1998, Knowsley Council adopted the Group II Medical Standards (in part) as recommended by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention.

All applicants for hackney carriage/private hire driver's licences suffering from a Group II medical condition (see below) will normally be refused a licence.

All licence renewal applicants, who are subsequently diagnosed as suffering from a Group II medical condition, pending medical evidence of their unsuitability to drive, will have their licence reviewed if the Licensing Authority feels it is in the interests of public safety to do so. Before making any such decision the Licensing Authority will take into consideration all the required medical evidence and also consult with the medical adviser who undertook the medical examination. The Licensing Authority will then, and only then decide whether or not the driver is fit to drive a private hire vehicle or hackney carriage. Any decision to revoke a licence is made in the interest of public safety as the safety of the travelling public is of paramount concern to the Licensing Authority.

If the applicant/driver suffers or has suffered from any of the following medical disorders then their application could be effected and they should seek advice directly from the Licensing Service before proceeding with their application: -

(i) **EPILEPTIC ATTACK**

Applicants must **NOT** "have a liability to epileptic seizures". Applicants must have been free of epileptic seizures for at least ten years and have not taken anti epileptic medication during this ten year period.

(ii) **DIABETES**

Insulin treated diabetics will be required to satisfactorily pass an annual consultant medical certification in order to obtain a licence, or successfully renew a licence.

(iii) **EYESIGHT**

All applicants must be able to read in good daylight a number plate at 20.5 metres (67 feet), and, if glasses or corrective lenses are required to do so, these must be worn while driving. In addition:

Applicants for hackney carriage or private hire driver's licences must have:

- A visual acuity of at least 6/9 in the better eye; and
- A visual acuity of at least 6/12 in the worse eye; and
- If these are achieved by correction the uncorrected visual acuity in each Eye must be no less than 3/60.

Applicants are also barred from holding a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence if they have:

- Uncontrolled diplopia (double vision)
- Or do not have a normal binocular field of vision

(iv) **OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Applicants/licensees are likely to be refused a licence if they are unable to meet the national recommended guidelines in the following cases:-

- Within 3 months of myocardial infarction, any episode of unstable angina, CABG or coronary angioplasty.
- A significant disturbance of cardiac rhythm occurring within the past 5 years unless special criteria are met.
- Suffering from or receiving medication for angina or heart failure.
- Hypertension where the BP is persistently 180 systolic or over or 100 Diastolic or over.
- A stroke, TIA or unexplained loss of consciousness within the past 5 Years.
- Meniere's and other conditions causing disabling vertigo, within the past 1 year, and with a liability to recurrence.
- Recent severe head injury with serious continuing after effects, or major brain surgery.
- Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or other "chronic" neurological disorders likely to affect limb power and co-ordination.
- Suffering from a psychotic illness in the past 3 years, or suffering from Dementia.
- Alcohol dependency or misuse, or persistent drug or substance misuse or dependency in the past 3 years.
- Insuperable difficulty in communicating by telephone in an emergency.
- Any other serious medical condition which may cause problems for road safety when driving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.
- If major psychotropic or neuroleptic medication is being taken.
- Any malignant condition within the last 2 years likely to metastasise to the brain e.g. carcinoma of lung or malignant melanoma.

NOTE The above mentioned medical standards are subject to change in line with any amendments made to the DVLA Group 2 medical standards

Appendix E - the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the 2002 Exceptions Order [SI 441].

For most employments, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 normally enables criminal convictions to become 'spent' after a certain rehabilitation period. A rehabilitation period is a set length of time from the date of conviction. The length of the rehabilitation period normally depends on the penalty imposed - not the offence committed. For a custodial sentence the rehabilitation period relates to the sentence imposed by the court (even if it is a suspended sentence) and not the time spent in prison. Once a Rehabilitation Period expires you do not have to disclose that conviction when applying for a position.

This does not apply in respect of applications made for private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences, there is an Exceptions Order [SI No: 441 of 2002] in force which amends Schedule 1 of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

This means that any hackney carriage or private hire driver applicant must disclose all cautions and convictions regardless of when they were received.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

NOTE: FIRST TIME APPLICANTS SHOULD ONLY OBTAIN THEIR MEDICAL CERTIFICATE AFTER THE CRB REPORT IS RECEIVED. THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE DATED NO MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE DATE OF THE CRB REPORT.

Full name: Date of Birth:

Address:.....
.....

VOCATIONAL (GROUP 2) MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE ONLY TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT'S OWN REGISTERED G.P.'S PRACTICE OR THE COUNCILS' OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT

GUIDANCE NOTES

A MEDICAL EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED IF YOU:

- Are a new applicant;
- Are a driver whose licence has expired by more than a month and reached 45, 50, 55, 60 or 65 years of age since you were last licensed;
- Are an existing driver whose renewal falls due on or after your 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th or 65th birthday;
- Are a lapsed driver whose licence expired 1 month or more ago & your last medical is more than three years old;
- Have reached 65 years of age (ANNUAL MEDICAL REQUIRED THEREAFTER) or;
- Suffered a DVLA-NOTIFIABLE illness since your last medical.

1. GUIDANCE FOR THE APPLICANT

Knowsley Council may require any applicant for a Hackney or Private Hire Drivers' Licence to:

- a) Produce a certificate signed by the applicant's registered General Practitioner certifying the applicant to be physically fit for Hackney or Private Hire employment and;
- b) If so required, submit to a further examination, by a Council-Nominated Doctor in order to ensure that the applicant is fit for Hackney or Private Hire employment. [In certain cases this can apply even when a certificate as at (a) has been produced].

c) ALL FEES PAYABLE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT

2. GUIDANCE FOR THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

- a) The required medical standard is the VOCATIONAL driving licence standard (ALSO KNOWN AS GROUP 2) as shown on the DVLA website - <http://www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical/ataglance.aspx>

- b) Special attention is to be paid to the condition of the joints of the arms, hands, legs and feet. Manual dexterity and gripping strength in the hands is highly significant in deciding fitness. (The use of specially adapted vehicles is permitted)
- c) The minimum standard of acuity of vision, using corrective lenses if necessary, is considered unsatisfactory if it is below 6/9 in the best eye and below 6/12 in the worst eye. [Please see questions at 4 overleaf]
- d) Applicants who are Drug Addicts/Alcoholic Dependents are considered unfit.**

You may return this form to the applicant. If for any reason you do not wish to do so then please forward the certificate under separate cover to **Knowsley Council Licensing Service, 2nd Floor, Yorkon Building, Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley L36 9FB.**

I have today examined the above named applicant with benefit of their records and the questions overleaf have been answered fully and correctly to the best of my knowledge.

I certify that the applicant is FIT to act as the driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

SURGERY STAMP

By submitting this completed medical questionnaire to the Council the applicant hereby gives the G.P express permission to discuss any query or ambiguity as to fitness with the Licensing Officer should the officer enquire.

	QUESTION	REPLY
1	Is the applicant suffering from epilepsy, vertigo or any mental ailment that is likely to affect their driving ability? IF SO PLEASE SPECIFY	* YES/NO _____
2	Is there evidence of any heart or lung disorder preventing the issue of a public hire or private hire licence? IF SO PLEASE SPECIFY	* YES/NO _____
3	Are the blood pressure readings- both Systolic & Diastolic –normal having regard to the applicant’s age? If not, would the abnormal blood pressure be likely to adversely affect the applicant’s competence to drive?	* YES/NO Systolic _____ / _____ Diastolic _____ / _____ * YES/NO
4 (a)	Acuity of vision by Snelens test [see note 2(c) overleaf] – distance Vision	Right eye _____ Left eye _____ (without corrective lenses) Right eye _____ Left eye _____ (with corrective lenses)
(b)	(i) Were the readings taken with the applicant’s own glasses? (ii) Do you consider corrective lenses are required for driving?	* YES/NO * YES/NO
c)	Is the applicant’s field of vision by hand test satisfactory?	* YES/NO
(d)	Is there any other defect of vision that adversely affects the applicant’s fitness to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle? IF SO PLEASE SPECIFY	* YES/NO

5	Does the applicant have any defect of hearing that would adversely affect their efficiency as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver?	* YES/NO
6	Has the applicant any physical disabilities or loss of limbs? If so would the disability adversely affect the applicant's ability to undertake the duties of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver? [SEE NOTES 2a + 2b overleaf]	* YES/NO
7	Does the applicant show any evidence of addiction to:- Alcohol, Tobacco, Controlled or Prescribed drugs/tranquillisers? IF SO PLEASE SPECIFY	* YES/NO <hr/>
(b)	Is the applicant a registered drug addict? [SEE NOTE 2 (d) overleaf]	* YES/NO
8	In your opinion would the applicant be fit enough to efficiently carry out the duties of a hackney carriage or private hire driver having regard to:- Bodily health, temperament and general level of physical activity? [SEE NOTE 2(b) overleaf]	* YES/NO
9	Is there any abnormality or medical condition present that leads you to conclude that the applicant IS UNFIT for the occupational duties of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver? IF SO PLEASE SPECIFY	* YES/NO

ONLY VALID IF COMPLETED WITH ACCESS TO THE APPLICANT'S MEDICAL RECORDS BY THE APPLICANT'S REGISTERED GENERAL PRACTITIONER [OR LOCUM] OR VIA THE COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT

