Driving after a Leg Amputation

There are things that you should do before driving in the state of Ohio after you having an amputation. If you do not follow through with these actions, you may be at risk for:

- Blame for an accident, whether it is your fault or not
- Having your insurance company refuse you auto coverage
- Getting a ticket for not having your restriction listed on your license

If you are licensed in another state, contact your local driver’s license exam center for information.

Contact the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)

You must tell the BMV if you have any changes in your health that could impact your driving. Having an amputation of your leg is such a change. Your doctor may send a form to the BMV to report your condition, but he or she is not required to do that by law. You can call or write the Medical Unit of the BMV to report your condition:

- To call, dial (614)752-4464
- To mail a letter, send to this address:
  
  Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles
  Attention: Driver License Special Care Section/Medical Unit
  PO Box 16784
  Columbus, Ohio 43216-6784
- To fax a letter, fax to this number (614) 752-7271, Attention Medical Unit
• Be sure to include:
  ▶ Your full name with your middle initial
  ▶ Full address
  ▶ Phone number where you can be reached
  ▶ Driver’s license number
  ▶ Brief reason for your condition such as an accident or disease that required amputation
  ▶ List any vehicle changes or adaptive equipment needed for driving such as automatic transmission, hand control brakes or hand control accelerator

Next Steps
• The BMV will send you a medical statement form for your doctor to complete. The completed form needs to be mailed or faxed to the BMV.

• The medical form is reviewed by the BMV’s medical review board to determine any license restrictions.

• You may be required to:
  ▶ Retake your driver’s test whether you have vehicle changes or not.
  ▶ Attend a driver’s training program. Your auto insurance plan may cover a portion of the fee for this.

For More Information
• Ask your doctor or therapist about orthotic and prosthetic companies in your area. They may be able to help you get yourself and your vehicle ready for you to return to driving.

• OSU Driving Rehabilitation Program can help you determine what you may need to do to return to driving after an amputation. The program is also a driver’s training program. For more information about the services available, call 614-293-3833 or go to this website: http://medicalcenter.osu.edu/patientcare/healthcare_services/physical_rehabilitation/support/Pages/index.aspx#driving
Other websites that may be helpful to you:

- Amputee Coalition of America, [www.amputee-coalition.org](http://www.amputee-coalition.org)
- InMotion Magazine, [www.amputee-coalition.org/inmotion_about.html](http://www.amputee-coalition.org/inmotion_about.html)

Most patients who have had a leg amputation return to driving after an amputation. **Do not return to driving until you are off narcotics such as prescription pain medicine.** For those who decide not to return to driving, it is often because they:

- Prefer not to drive
- Lack confidence or are fearful of driving
- Have other medical problems that make it unsafe for them to drive

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: [health-info@osu.edu](mailto:health-info@osu.edu).