

# Driving after Limb Amputation



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

## Becoming a driver again

Driving is an important part of being independent. After a limb amputation, your ability to drive can be affected, but there are many types of adaptive devices available to allow you to drive again. People have returned to driving after having both their arms and legs amputated.

Assistive Technology Services at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center can help you regain, improve, and keep the driving skills you need to get back on the road. We will also assess what adaptive devices you need.



## Adaptive device needs

Your amputation will determine what type of adaptive devices you will need to be able to safely operate your car.

### Right leg amputation may need:

- Left foot gas pedal or hand controls for pedal operation
- Automatic transmission
- Power braking

### Amputation of both legs may need:

- Hand controls for brake and accelerator
- Spinner knob (type of handle used to operate the steering wheel)
- Automatic transmission
- Emergency brake extension
- Upper body support

### Amputation of either arm may need:

- Automatic transmission
- Steering device
- Reduced effort steering
- Modified gear shifter
- Modified secondary controls (turn signals, dimmers)

### Amputation of 3 or all 4 limbs may need:

- Joystick driving systems (steering device)
- Reduced effort steering system
- More modifications to car or van

Adaptive equipment and vehicle modifications are available for some vehicles, although all vehicles can have these modifications.

## Occupational Therapy Driver Rehabilitation Program

The Occupational Therapy Driver Rehabilitation Program at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center supports safe driving by adapting vehicles and developing skills. Our goal is to help you return to safe, independent driving.

Our specialists will assist you with:

- Training in the use of your adaptive equipment
- Meeting Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle regulations
- Picking the right vehicle for your needs
- Choosing someone who is qualified to modify your vehicle

These services are provided after you have returned home from the hospital or another rehabilitation facility. For more information about the program, visit [wexnermedical.osu.edu/drive](http://wexnermedical.osu.edu/drive).

### Join the Program

To participate, ask your doctor to send a referral stating “Occupational Therapy Driver Rehabilitation” to:

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
Assistive Technology Services  
Occupational Therapy Driver Rehabilitation Program  
Martha Morehouse Outpatient Care  
Pavilion, Suite 3300  
2050 Kenny Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43221  
Phone 614-685-5600  
Fax 614-293-9002

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**Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at **614-293-3707** or e-mail [health-info@osu.edu](mailto:health-info@osu.edu).