General Information Regarding Older Drivers

- Arizona drivers enjoy an extended driver license which does not expire until the age of 65, although vision testing and photo need to be updated every 12 years.
- Drivers 60 years of age or older receive a driver license that is valid for only 5 years.
- No physician review is necessary to obtain or renew a driver license based on age.

Physician Reporting Requirements in Arizona

- Physicians are NOT required to report any patient.
- A physician may voluntarily report a patient to the AZ Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT-MVD), who, in the opinion of the physician, has a medical or psychological condition that could significantly impair the person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. (Arizona Revised Statutes §28-3005)

To report a driver, complete this form:
http://mvd.azdot.gov/mvd/formsandpub/viewPDF.asp?lngProductKey=2042&lngFormInfoKey=1861

Medical Review Program of ADOT’s Motor Vehicle Division:

A physician is unable to revoke or restrict a person’s license.

- Final determination of an individual’s ability to drive is made by ADOT- MVD.
- ADOT-MVD may revoke, suspend, or restrict a person’s driver license based on a physician's report and further evaluation by MVD. Examples of restrictions are:
  - Daylight driving only
  - No freeway driving
  - Driving within a defined radius of a person’s home
  - Golf cart driving only

Immunity from Liability

- Physicians who, in good faith, report drivers whose conditions may impair their driving, are immune from any civil or criminal liability. (A.R.S. § 28-3005)

Identifying at Risk Drivers

- Physicians are well-suited to identify drivers at risk, based on ability, not age
- There are 3 main areas that should be evaluated:
  1) Vision - Basic visual acuity, or sharpness of vision
  2) Cognition - Decision making, judgment, and planning (needed for making left turns).
  3) Motor and Sensory Skills - Reaction time (needed for stopping fast enough to avoid a crash)

- Signs of unsafe driving include:
  - History of motor vehicle incidents/crashes
  - Forgetting how to locate familiar places
  - Failing to observe traffic signs
  - Making slow or poor decisions in traffic
  - Driving at an inappropriate speed
  - Becoming angry or confused while driving
Medical conditions that may impair a driver's ability include:

- Epilepsy
- Arthritis
- Vision impairments
- Dementia (any type)
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Other neurodegenerative diseases
- Substances abuse or dependence

Assessments:

- An MVD driving skills test or MVD Medical/Special Performance Evaluation drive (no additional fee) is the best way to assess driving skills

  Or

- A driver medical evaluation by a nationally certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist (fee for service):

  Adapted Driving Program
  Banner Good Samaritan Rehabilitation Institute
  1012 E. Willetta
  Phoenix, Arizona, 85006
  602-839-2317

  DriveAble Solutions
  4120 N. 20th St., Suite G
  Phoenix, AZ 85016
  Phone: 602-840-2323

  Driving to Independence
  1414 W Broadway Road, Suite 230
  Tempe, AZ 85282
  480-449-3331

  Driving to Independence
  4720 N. La Cholla Blvd.
  Tucson, Arizona 85705
  520-219-0550

To report a driver, complete this form:
http://mvd.azdot.gov/mvd/formsandpub/viewPDF.asp?lngProductKey=2042&lngFormInfoKey=1861

American Medical Association’s Physicians Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers (in conjunction with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration):

American Academy of Neurology’s Practice Parameter update: Evaluation and Management of driving risk in dementia:
http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2010/04/12/WNL_0b013e3181da3b0f.citation

Driver Fitness Medical Guidelines by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators:
http://www.granddriver.info/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/DriverLicensingIdentification/At_Risk_Drivers/Driver%20Fitness%20Medical%20Guidelines.pdf

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S. § 28-3005)

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S. § 28-3159)