

**DOT PHYSICAL EXAMS
INFORMATION FOR DRIVERS/INDUSTRY**

Current: 1 April 2016

As announced on 23 April 2015, DOT/FMCSA has implemented important changes related to all DOT medical exams forms as well as significant changes to physical exam certification processes and dates. These changes are effective and permanent as of 20 April 2016 and are summarized below.

Summary of changes effective 20 April 2016:

- 1) All forms are now capable of electronic processing. The new forms are:
 - a. Medical Examination Report (MER) Form, MCSA-5875
 - b. Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC) Form, MCSA-5876
 - c. CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850
- 2) These new forms are all formally approved by OMB and must be used as approved. Local changes are not authorized and company logos or symbols are not allowed.
- 3) All actions that occur with a physical exam encounter must be recorded and reported to DOT/FMCSA. Physical exams may no longer be 'held' while awaiting further information from a driver's PCP or specialist in order to complete the exam.
- 4) Drivers needing additional information in order to complete their DOT exam will be put into a new category: the 45-day Pending Determination category. The Medical Examiner may no longer use a 1-month or 3-month certification extension to allow the driver time to gather necessary additional medical information. This new category is the most significant change that will affect drivers and their ability to remain certified without a break in eligibility. This change is explained in detail below.
- 5) Drivers who begin a DOT exam but then elect for any reason NOT to continue with that exam will be recorded as "Exam Incomplete". The DOT exam being recorded as 'Exam Incomplete' is required to be reported to DOT/FMCSA.
- 6) A driver receiving a certification card must have a complete new DOT exam at the end of that certification period. This means that drivers with a certification period as short as 1 month or 3 months will need a new DOT exam at the end of that certification period.

***New: 45-day Determination Pending:** The 45-day Determination Pending period is a new classification defined by FMCSA. This classification replaces previous 1-month or 3-month extension commonly given to allow a driver to obtain more medical information in order to make a final qualification determination on a DOT exam. However, this is a significant change. The **45-day Determination Pending** status does **NOT** provide an extension or temporary certification during those 45 days. A driver in a Determination Pending status will only be able to continue driving if his/her existing/prior certification is still valid. Once the prior certification expires, the driver is no longer certified until such time as a final decision is made on the pending DOT exam. Extensions to existing certifications are no longer authorized.

Key Points:

- 1) All DOT exams must end with one of 3 options selected:
 - a. **Final determination:** Driver is disqualified or is qualified for a period of time of 1 month to 2 years at the end of the DOT exam

- b. **Incomplete exam:** Driver has initiated his/her DOT exam but elected to not complete their exam during the exam encounter. This ends that DOT exam and will be reported as such to DOT/FMCSA. Driver will need a complete new DOT exam when they are ready to continue.
 - c. **45-Day Determination Pending:** Driver has had their DOT exam but needs further information in order for the Medical Examiner to make a Final Determination. The Medical Examiner may provide an up to 45-day period in order for the driver to obtain the necessary medical information.
- 2) During this 45-day period, the driver may continue to drive under their current certification until that certification expires. Once their certification expires, they are no longer authorized to drive commercially until they return to the medical examiner's office and have their DOT exam qualified and receive a new certification.
 - 3) Drivers with certification expiration during the 45-day determination pending period who need/desire a 1 to 3 month certification in order to continue driving during that period must be aware that at the end of the 1 to 3 month certification, they must complete an entire new DOT exam. If using a 1 to 3 month new certification, the 45-day Determination Pending period may not be used. **Note that there is no longer a 1 to 3-month extension option as was previously available under FMCSA rules.**
 - 4) The 45-day Pending Determination period is required to be reported to FMCSA. If the driver does not return within the 45 days, then his/her DOT exam is considered invalid and the driver must initiate a new DOT exam.
 - 5) **Drivers with any sort of medical problem, current or suspected, are strongly advised to have all information with them at the time of the initial visit to the Medical Examiner. This will avoid unnecessary delays and additional expense for the Driver.** Please see the attached Medical Conditions document to ensure you have the information necessary to complete your DOT exam.
 - 6) **Note:** supporting medical documentation is solely up to the discretion of each individual medical examiner and other additional documentation may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

Pricing:

- 1) **\$95**: New Certification or Recertification DOT medical exam
 - 2) **\$70**: Certification or recertification exam within 3 months of a previous examination, when a short-term certification was given or the driver was disqualified. (e.g. bringing in required medical info after disqualification or a 1 to 3-month certification). Per new DOT regulations, a complete new DOT examination is now required after any period of certification or when disqualified, even if the disqualification is as short as 1 day. Note: this pricing only applies if driver returns within 3 months of the previous complete DOT PE done at a *NextCare Holdings* clinic.
- **As part of the evaluation process, there may be additional minimal charges for tests based on any abnormal findings during the physical.** An example would be a driver that is positive for sugar in their urine may need to have a blood sugar test done. While his/her company/employer may be paying for his/her basic DOT Physical, they are NOT responsible for charges for any additional testing that may be indicated. Unless the employer agrees to pay for such testing in advance, the driver will be personally responsible for payment of these charges. In cases where this additional testing is performed at *NextCare Holdings* (finger-stick blood sugar, Pulmonary Function breathing test, EKG, etc), **the driver will be responsible for the fees. The driver will be informed of the charge(s) prior to performing the testing and arrangements for payment will be made prior to conducting the testing.**