

Challenges for Society in Meeting the Health & Wellbeing Needs of the Older Driver due to deterioration in Personal Resources

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Auto Mobility – Car driving

- Driving a car is an integral & Fundamental part of People's lives
- Driving a car – central tenet to individual consumerist and embedded in the national psyche.
- Perceived as a right and gateway to freedom and independence

(Urry 2002)

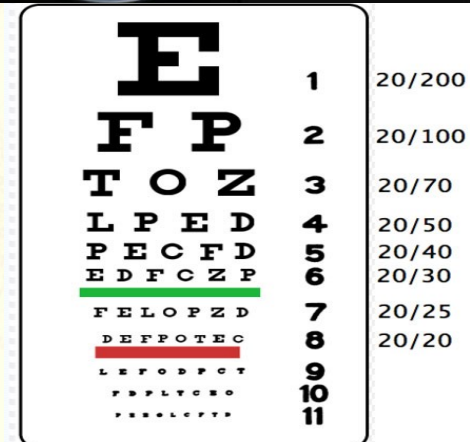
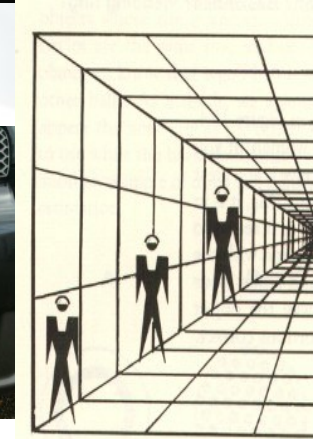


Physical Skills and Abilities

- Physical strength
- Physical & Mental stamina and Muscle Flexibility
- Good Joint range of motion and Co-ordination



Sensory Skills



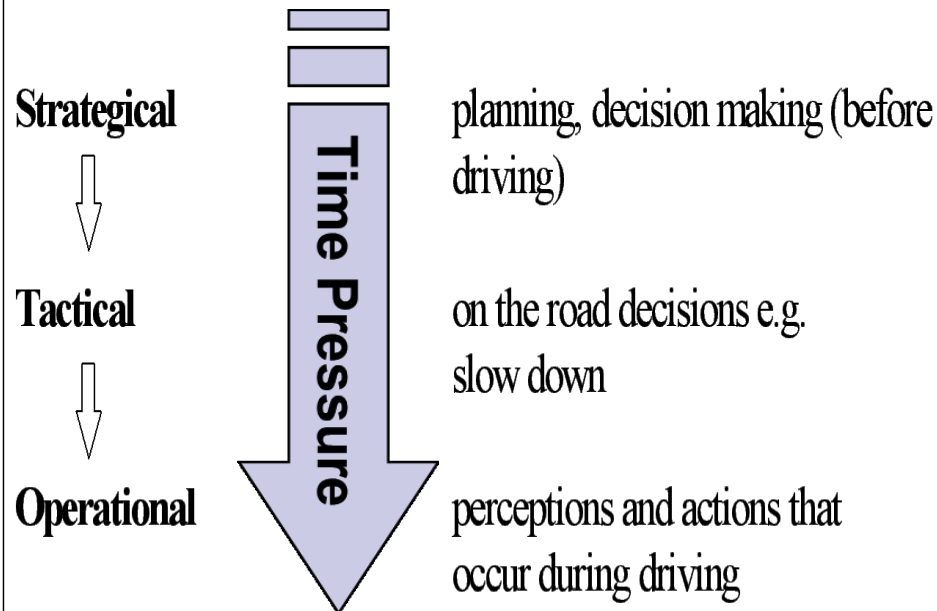
- **Vision**
 - Distance Vision
 - Field of Vision
 - Depth Perception
 - Accommodation (Near vision focusing)
 - Night Vision (Glare Recovery)
- **Hearing**
- **Touch/Proprioception**

- **Concentration & Attention/Information Processing**
- **Memory**
- **Reasoning ability**
- **Visual/Spatial ability**
- **Executive Function**
- **Behaviour (Impulsive)**



Michon's Driving Hierarchy

The Hierarchical Model of Task Performance in Car Driving



| <u>Level</u> | <u>Examples of Actions</u> | <u>Time Pressure</u> | <u>Psychological Abilities Required</u> |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| <i>Strategic</i> | Deciding whether to drive in bad weather | Low/non-existent | Planning, memory, self-appraisal of abilities |
| <i>Tactical</i> | Looking ahead in traffic, deciding whether to change lanes | Medium | Planning, anticipation, decision-making |
| <i>Operational</i> | Second-by-second manoeuvring (eg gear changing, steering, reacting to events) | High | Psychomotor speed, acute perceptual abilities |

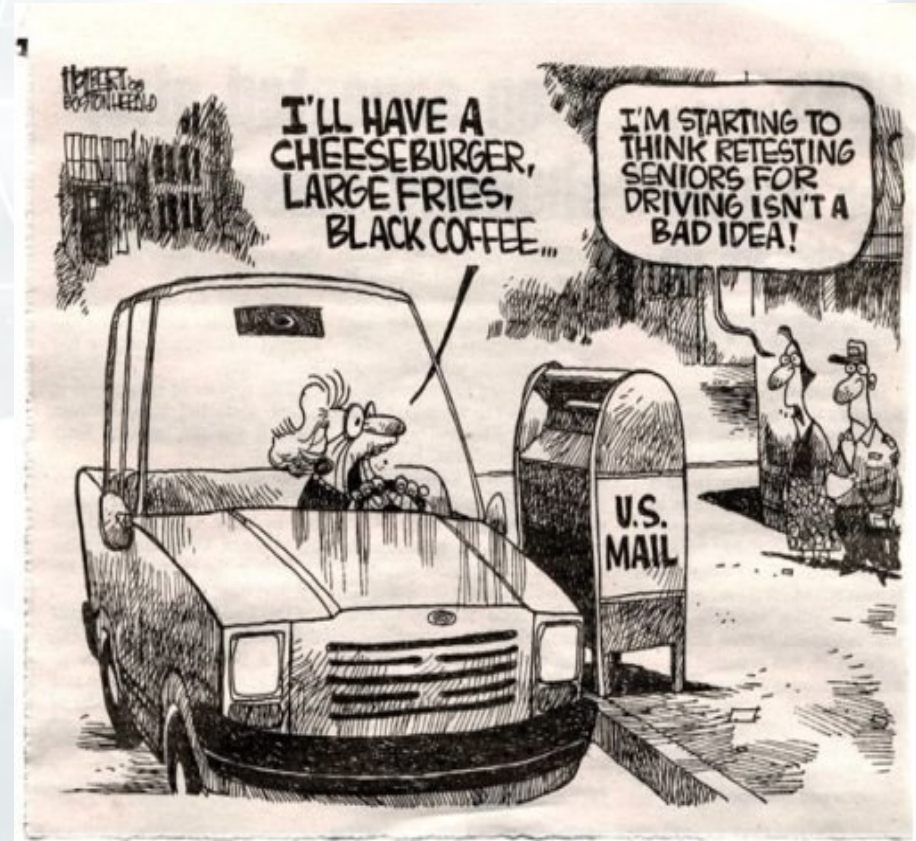
Driving Licence Regulations

**DIRECTIVE 2006/126/EC OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 December
2006 on driving licences: 3rd Driving Licence Directive**

- **Article 7**
- 1. ...
 - (a) who have passed a test of skills and behaviour and a theoretical
 - test and who meet medical standards, in accordance
 - with the provisions of Annexes II and III;

Changes in the Driver

- Physical
- Vision alters
- Cognitive changes
- Health conditions: existing ones change, new ones develop



European Legislation & Practice

The EU Driving Licence
Directive (91/439/EC,
2006/126/EC) :-

“expects a critical evaluation of
the functional capacities of
applicants in relation to the
driving task.”

UK Perspectives:



Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency

For medical practitioners

At a glance guide to the
current medical standards
of fitness to drive

Issued by
Drivers Medical Group
DVLA, Swansea

Potential Difficulties for Older Drivers due to deterioration in Personal Resources

V: - visuo-perceptual impairments

L: - locomotor impairments

C: - Cognitive Impairments

Visuo-perceptual:

Problems in observing the traffic

Locomotor:

Problems with handling a vehicle in Traffic

Cognitive:

Problems participating in traffic

Challenges for Older Drivers

Media Coverage:



Research Evidence:

- Most drivers aged 70 -80 years do not pose any more risk than any other age group
- Risk or likely hood of a collision in increased when drivers reach 80 years and over



Challenge for all of us

- Ageing in the 21st century for European societies.
- By 2025 more than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or over
- With a particularly rapid increase in numbers of over-80s.
- Older people have different healthcare requirements.
- Health and Wellbeing needs of Older people must be protected
- Driving provides an opportunity to stay connected to the wider world and driving cessation could lead to depression (Knight et al -2009)
- Older people with health problems are more likely to give up walking or using public transport than they are driving – (OECD 2001)

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ageing/policy/index_en.htm

Risk Management

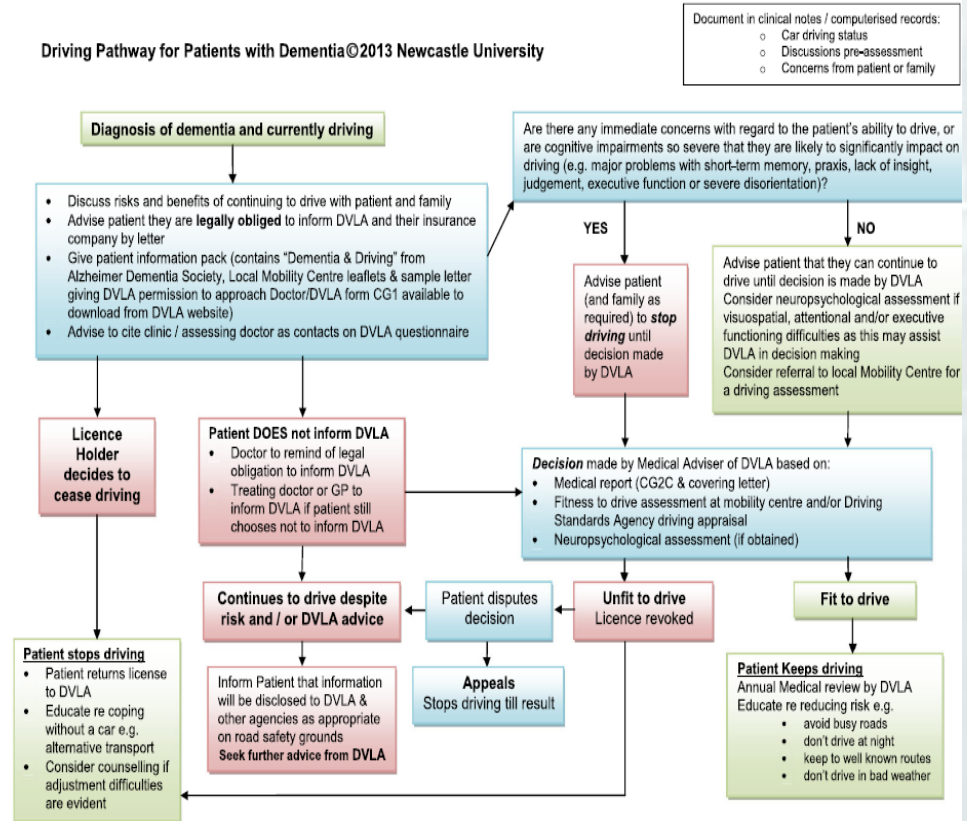
Vs

Independence & Wellbeing

Challenge for us

- Interpretation and implementation of EU Driving Licence Directive by member states
- Limitation of research evidence
- Perceived lack of joined up service with all stakeholders
- Limited “Standardised Service Provision for Older drivers in member states”

Driving Pathway for Patients with Dementia ©2013 Newcastle University



For more information refer to DVLA Guide for Medical Practitioners. www.dvla.gov.uk DVLA tel: 01792 761119



e 1 Driving pathway for patients with dementia (available to download from http://research.ncl.ac.uk/driving_and_dementia/).

Way Forward

- **More Research**
- **Consistent Standardised service provision for ALL older drivers in EU**
- **Joined up service with all stakeholders e.g. manufacturers, Voluntary Organisations –AGE UK etc.**
- **Support for Older drivers for preparation for “Driving Cessation”**

Shared Vision

“ Develop policy across EU to meet the health and wellbeing needs of older drivers using the **science** without **losing the Art.**”





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