



DRIVEABLE



“We are... keeping our members and the community safer by giving information to physicians, staff, and other medical providers, that some of their patients may not be cognitively fit to be safely driving a vehicle.”

– Brian McReynolds, Physical Therapy Aide, Kaiser Permanente Colorado

When Kaiser Permanente’s medical team needed a research-based, standardized approach to evaluate their patients’ fitness to drive, DriveABLE provided a safe, cost-effective solution.



ABOUT KAISER PERMANENTE

Founded in Oakland, California in 1945, Kaiser Permanente is an integrated care consortium currently serving approximately 9.5 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Kaiser Permanente’s mission is to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of its members and the communities it serves. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Kaiser Permanente’s expert medical teams are supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for all aspects of health promotion, disease prevention, care delivery, and chronic disease management.

THE CHALLENGE

One of the most difficult decisions facing physicians and families today is how to deal with a patient or loved one who has developed a medical condition or is taking medication which may be affecting their cognitive abilities to safely operate a motor vehicle. When a person becomes unsafe to drive, that person must stop driving. The problem is knowing when to stop.

Kaiser Permanente Colorado’s team of medical professionals needed help evaluating their patients’ cognitive abilities to safely operate a motor vehicle. Until recently, they did not have a research-based, objective, and unbiased method for determining this. Physicians were left to make recommendations about driving cessation based on observation and experience, but found the advice often went unheeded by patients and families due to the lack of an objective assessment method underlying the recommendation, thereby putting the patient, their families and their community at significant risk.

THE SOLUTION

“Dr. Glen Gade decided he wanted to find a better way to show that [the patient] really should or should not be driving. He wanted something more [concrete] and scientific,” explained Kirsten Fischer, Clinical Director for Rehab services for Kaiser Permanente Colorado.

Dr. Gade sought out a better way to determine his patients' safety on the road. The solution he and Don Backstrom, Senior Director of Regional Specialties and Geriatrics, found was DriveABLE. Kaiser Permanente Colorado became the first Kaiser Permanente site in the nation to implement DriveABLE testing, an in-office computerized assessment, to objectively and scientifically evaluate member-drivers potentially at-risk due to brain injury, disease or debilitating medication use.

Kaiser Permanente Colorado has since fully implemented DriveABLE testing into two of its clinics and for the past 3 years has been evaluating about 30 patients per month. The clinics use word-of-mouth, internal emails, and presentations at continuing education programs, to get the word out about DriveABLE testing to their physicians, continuing care clinics, and others who might find the program useful. The resident MD program at affiliated Exempla St. Joseph's Hospital is also closely tied with the DriveABLE program and has primary care residents rotating through the program each week.

THE RESULTS - Over 1300 members assessed

Objective and Unbiased

DriveABLE provides an unbiased and objective measure of the degree to which cognitive skills required for driving may have been compromised.

Results Inform Recommendations and Facilitate Discussion

DriveABLE test results provide physicians with the data to make informed decisions about driving cessation recommendations and facilitate the discussion with patients and their family members. Objective data dispels doubt.

Safer Communities

“DriveABLE makes patients safer, which makes all of us safer in an indirect manner”, explained Mr. McReynolds.

SURVEY RESULTS

Kaiser Permanente Colorado surveyed referring Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) and Nurses and found:

- 72% of PCP's used results to discuss with the member
- 93% were satisfied with administration and communication of results
- 100% felt DriveABLE should be continued and expanded

TESTIMONIAL

Brian McReynolds, Physical Therapy Aide, Kaiser Permanente Colorado, once went to retrieve a member for DriveABLE testing. Waiting alongside his patient was a fully uniformed police officer. According to the officer, the patient had been pulled over because she was driving dangerously slow. When the officer discovered her destination, he escorted her to the Kaiser facility because he felt she was a hazard to other drivers. The patient's DCAT score revealed a 99% probability of her failing an on-road driving test.

DriveABLE has one goal; to help healthcare professionals make the important decision of whether someone with cognitive impairment from a medical condition or medications, is competent to drive.

About DriveABLE

DriveABLE is the global leader in evidence-based assessment technology for the fair and accurate assessment of cognitively at-risk drivers. Through award-winning university research, the DCAT - The DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment Tool - was developed. It is the only cognitive assessment tool shown to be highly predictive of actual on-road performance.

DriveABLE seeks to protect safe drivers from misidentification, based solely on their medical condition or age, and accurately identify unsafe drivers to protect them, their families and other road users.