

**St. Louis VA Medical Center - Spinal Cord Injury Service
VA Heartland Network (VISN 15)**

Driver Rehabilitation Clinic

The Driver Rehabilitation Clinic at the St. Louis VA Medical Center was established in 1974 and is one of 40 such clinics nationwide. The clinic is staffed by 2 occupational therapists, Pat Niewoehner, BS, OTR/L, CDRS and Tracy Beardsley, BS, OTR/L, DRS; both are Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. The Clinic is available to any veteran enrolled in the VA system who is referred by a VA provider.

We assess the needs of a driver or passenger. A driving evaluation appraises several aspects such as vision, memory and thinking, strength, range of motion, and a behind-the-wheel evaluation is performed in the facility vehicle. A valid driver's license or permit is required for a behind-the-wheel evaluation. Assistance is provided to veterans in making decisions regarding vehicle selection and modifications, and adaptive driving controls tailored to individual needs.

If a veteran is 100% service connected for the spinal cord injury, he may apply for an Auto Grant through his/her local Regional Office. Auto Grants are made available by Regional Office and can be offered to a driver or non-driver. Veterans ineligible for an Auto Grant can still be seen in the Driver Rehabilitation Clinic and receive services, but they are responsible for the cost of any auto equipment that is needed for safe driving.

Please contact us with your questions and/or concerns.



**Pat Niewoehner, BS, OTR/L, CDRS or
Tracy Beardsley, BS, OTR/L, DRS at
314-652-4100 or 800-228-5459
ext 6-3447**

**Location: Jefferson Barracks,
Building 52, Spinal Cord Injury
Service, Room GN48**