

McClatchy Medical Center

What You Need to Know about ...

Epilepsy

What is the Rule?

49 CFR Part 391.41 (b)(8) states that to be qualified, a driver must have no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a motor vehicle.

What are your responsibilities?

Before going to a DOT exam you need to gather the information required by the DOT in able to be certified on that visit. If you do not have the required information then you risk not being able to be certified on that visit and it may take you off the road until the information is gathered or prevent you from being hired.

What is required?

Epilepsy- Disqualify

Single unprovoked seizure- Disqualify – consider for qualification if seizure free and off medication for 5+ years with a normal EEG.

Acute symptomatic seizures-

1. With systemic metabolic illness- disqualify until the causative medical illness is corrected and determined that they are seizure free.
2. With acute structural insults to the central nervous system - Disqualify

What you need to bring to the DOT exam?

You must go to your personal physician with this information and have him write a letter showing compliance with the above regulations. Many drivers will go to their family doctor to have these tests performed but they must be performed prior to the examination date or you cannot complete the examination.