

McClatchy Medical Center

What You Need to Know about ...

Syncopy (fainting)

What is the Rule?

49 CFR 391.41 (b)(7) states that a driver may not be qualified if they have an established medical history or current diagnosis of neuromuscular or vascular disease which interferes with the driver's ability to control and operate a commercial motor vehicle safely. 49 CFR Part 391.41 (b)(8) states that to be qualified, a driver must have no established medical history or current diagnosis of any 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?

The DOT Conference on Neurological Disorders and Commercial Drivers recommends:

1. Waiting period of 6 months after syncopy (fainting) or loss of consciousness with no recurrence, and;
2. No medications likely to interfere with safe operation of CMV, and;
3. Careful neurological evaluation revealing no defect that would adversely affect the ability to operate a CMV safely.
4. If the cause is known, then qualification is deferred until the driver is fully recovered from that condition and has no residual complications.

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.