

The Facts for Bioptic Drivers

How much does a driver evaluation cost? Are there payor sources? How long does the evaluation take?

A driver evaluation is \$600. This includes a thorough clinical and behind-the-wheel evaluation with an occupational therapist. It can take anywhere from 2 - 3 hours. Insurance does not cover the cost of the evaluation or training. Individuals who are established Vocational Rehabilitation consumers can contact their counselors for information about covering the cost of the evaluation.

When are driver evaluations scheduled?

Driver evaluations are scheduled on Wednesdays at the north office of Easterseals Crossroads (4740 Kingsway Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205).

What must I have and bring to the driver evaluation?

The individual most likely will not hold a valid license or permit based on visual limitations; the evaluation can still be completed without this. Potential bioptic consumers must have their bioptic lenses with them and have completed all visits with the dispensing eye specialist and have completed all assigned "homework." We must also have a referral from a doctor for an occupational therapy driver evaluation and the Certificate of Vision (filled out by an eye specialist).

What will the results of the driver evaluation tell me?

The evaluation is a tool for us to predict the readiness of the individual who wants to enter our bioptic driving program. Participation in an evaluation or in training does not mean that the individual will be guaranteed a driver's license. The evaluation will help determine the basic bioptic skills of the individual (in the clinic and as a passenger in a vehicle).

Sometimes an individual is not deemed ready for the program and is given further homework to develop his/her targeting skills using the bioptic lens. A reevaluation may be necessary in the future or a "conditional" driving period might be the plan of action. A consumer must demonstrate the basic bioptic skills, which must include adequate color perception, prior to the beginning of training.

How much does driver training cost? What is involved in the driver training sessions?

Training is \$150 per hour; insurance does not cover this cost. The state of Indiana policy is that bioptic users must have 30 hours of training with the bioptic lens. Wait times to start training will vary.

Training sessions occur approximately two times per week for 1 - 2 hours in length. Initially, the person will be scheduled for training sessions at our north location; eventually, training can occur near the person's home, office, school, etc. For off-location training, additional costs for the therapist's travel time will be incurred.

Call 317.466.1000 x3121 for information