

Sample Overview Summary of Findings

NATIONAL SURVEY OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS REGARDING THE NRCME AND FMCSA MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROCESS



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More details of survey findings will be released in pending peer-reviewed published medical journal manuscripts.

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Surveying the nation's certified medical examiners

In conjunction with the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), Mayo Clinic designed and distributed a survey in the winter of 2016 with the aim of examining the experience for medical providers involved in the process of evaluating and certifying commercial truck and bus drivers required to obtain a DOT/FMCSA medical certificate. Examiners from all 50 states participated in the survey, with 1,242 total respondents. A total of 95% of respondents were listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME), with 44% of respondents indicating that they had done examinations on commercial drivers for more than 10 years.

Most examiners felt the process for taking a training course or registering for the secure examination was relatively simple. Most passed the secure exam, but viewed the process as somewhat onerous. Most appreciated training opportunities but bemoaned the fact that there was little guidance from the FMCSA in adjudicating complex medical situations. About 14% of examiners indicated that they have either discontinued or will stop doing the exams in the coming year.

The vast majority (83%) of respondents use a hard copy version of the medical application form MCSA-5875, and half of those individuals print the forms from the NRCME/FMCSA web site. More than 80% of certified medical examiners have office staff perform certain portions of the examinations such as urine specimen testing, visual acuity checks, and measurement of vital signs.

Interestingly, there was great polarity on the popularity of the NRCME and requirements placed upon examiners to become qualified to perform examinations on drivers. A total of 288 (27%) of examiners were neutral on whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with the NRCME and its requirements on examiners, with about 10% who were very dissatisfied and 16% who were very satisfied with the registry and the process of becoming a certified examiner. A total of 43% of examiners were favorable about the need for re-training every five years, while 25% were unfavorable, and 31% were undecided.

LOGISTICS OF THE EXAMINATION

- 56% of practices surveyed have office staff enter data into the NRCME
- 41% of certified medical examiners enter disposition data into the registry themselves

WHERE'S HELP FOR COMPLEX CASES?

- 47% use a medical textbook
- 23% use the FMCSA web site
- 13% call another examiner
- 2.8% phone an FMCSA representative

ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

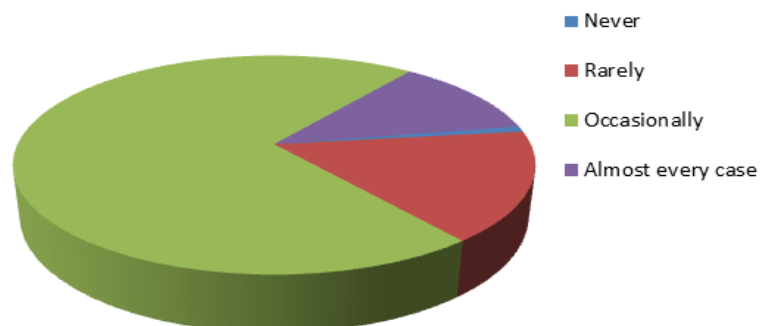
Less than 20% of examiners indicated that they utilize electronic medical examination forms that are available through commercial vendors.



THE EXAM EXPERIENCE

Most examiners felt very confident in performing examinations. Some providers felt the need for a training course was redundant and unnecessary, but the majority indicated that the requirement for training was reasonable and useful. Examiners estimates' of the length of time to complete an examination was variable. About 18% of examiners thought that an average examination was completed in 10 minutes or less, while 67% suggested that an average exam took 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Of drivers surveyed, 26.6% of drivers reported spending 20 minutes or less with their CME, with 6.5% of those drivers spending 10 minutes or less, an insufficient time to complete all required processes of a DOT physical. Drivers certified by chiropractors were more likely to have important medical checks omitted with only 18% of examiners who were chiropractors indicating that they always or frequently performed a hernia check, or examined the driver's chest with a stethoscope. NPs, PAs, and MD/DO groups reported performing these checks 87% of the time always or frequently.

How frequently do you ask for supplementary material related to a current or prior medical condition before you certify a driver?



SATISFACTION RATINGS BY CMEs ACROSS VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FMCSA MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROCESS

Question	Very dissatisfied 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Very satisfied 10	Total
The forms utilized for the exams (new form MCSA-5875)	35	29	58	77	76	201	105	152	166	104	86	1089
The communication to MEs from the FMCSA	38	62	98	69	92	208	114	126	126	73	69	1075
The usefulness of the FMCSA web site	49	57	101	88	102	199	118	130	120	71	49	1084
The helpfulness of preparation course you took for the secure exam	24	20	19	39	36	112	97	179	195	193	157	1071
The helpfulness of preparation course you took for the secure exam	27	23	20	41	35	116	84	167	189	179	151	1032
Ability of new regulations to improve highway safety	32	23	40	41	60	197	136	176	175	113	82	1075
Amount of time required to perform and process exams	28	38	56	61	87	188	116	156	173	112	64	1079
Amount of assistance available from FMCSA to assist with complex certification cases	105	113	130	92	96	237	66	74	70	43	38	1064
Revenue generated from examination in relation to time spent	80	68	113	100	115	233	107	89	78	35	43	1061

NOTE: These are only a sample of total data analyzed across a cohort of more than 900 commercial drivers, 300 motor carriers and 1,200 certified medical examiners (CMEs) to better understand the impacts that the NRCME has had on medical practices and the trucking industry since its implementation in 2014.