

Practice Managers and Receptionists: Fitness to Drive assessment nearing program completion

Overview of the NSW Alcohol Interlock Program

- Alcohol interlock devices are now mandatory for people convicted of high range (blood alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher), repeat and other serious drink driving offences in NSW.
- An interlock is an electronic breath testing device linked to a vehicle's ignition system. Program participants must provide a breath sample that the interlock analyses for the presence of alcohol. If a positive sample is detected, the vehicle will not start.
- The program puts participants in contact with their GP at up to three different stages of the program to help them with their drinking behaviour:
 1. Before they enter the program
 2. During the program
 3. Towards the end of the program.

This information sheet relates to **Stage 3**. The involvement of GPs is essential to support the rehabilitative opportunities of the program.

Why is this individual attending?

This individual is currently on the interlock program and is attending this consultation because Roads and Maritime Services requires the individual to attend.

How long should the appointment be?

Most doctors prefer a 20-30 minute appointment, but some doctors require a double appointment or two separate appointments. The second appointment can be cancelled if not required.

What does the doctor need for this consultation?

- The **NSW Fitness to Drive Medical Assessment Form** from Roads and Maritime
 - The patient should bring this form with them to the consultation. It is also available by calling Service NSW on 13 22 13
 - When complete, the doctor should give this form back to the patient or send it directly to Roads and Maritime
- A **letter from Roads and Maritime** outlining the patient's interlock readings
 - The patient must provide the doctor with this letter
- **Checklist: Assessing Fitness to Drive in relation to alcohol use**. This checklist is included in the Stage 3 information sheet for General Practitioners.

Does a form need to be signed?

Yes. The NSW Fitness to Drive Medical Assessment Form from Roads and Maritime needs to be completed and signed by the doctor.

When complete, the form can be given back to the patient or sent directly to Roads and Maritime.

Can this be billed to Medicare?

The assessment and management of the patient's alcohol use can be billed under Medicare. However, the doctor completing or helping to complete the NSW Fitness to Drive Medical Assessment Form cannot be billed under Medicare.

Please discuss billing with the doctor and advise the patient of the likely fee.