



FMCSA Safety and Security Accomplishments

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U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration



Medical Program Highlights

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U.S. Department of Transportation
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Medical Program Activities

- ◆ Set medical standards and guidelines
- ◆ Conduct research on driver health
- ◆ Respond to inquiries and provide technical support to drivers, doctors, motor carriers and the public (substantial Congressional correspondence)
- ◆ Develop medical rulemakings (e.g., diabetes, medical CDL merger)
- ◆ Resolve conflicts among medical examiners, motor carriers, unions, and drivers
- ◆ Process medical exemptions (e.g., vision, diabetes)
- ◆ Process certificates for drivers with limb impairment (e.g., leg amputation)



Medical Standards/Regulations

◆ 13 Standards

- Directly related to driving

◆ 9 Standards

- Medical examiner discretion

◆ 4 Standards

- **NO** medical examiner discretion
 - Hearing
 - Vision
 - Epilepsy
 - Insulin-treated diabetes



Medical Exemptions/ SPE Certificates

- ◆ Federal Vision Exemption Program
 - 1,500 active drivers
- ◆ Federal Diabetes Exemption Program
 - Seven drivers approved, dramatic increase (since SAFETEA-LU enacted)
- ◆ Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate Program (formerly Limb Waiver Program)
 - 3,400+ active drivers



Medical Program Challenges

- ◆ Incomplete, inconsistent medical standards
- ◆ Lack of medical standards in key areas
- ◆ Number of drivers
- ◆ Medical examiner training
- ◆ Resource intensive programs



Major Initiatives: FY 2005 – 2009

- ◆ Establish Medical Review Board (MRB)
- ◆ Revise medical standards, guidelines
- ◆ Establish National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME)
- ◆ Establish Medical Certification/CDL Merger Program
- ◆ Appoint Chief Medical Examiner
- ◆ Develop long-term program/research strategies



Medical Review Board

- ◆ Nationally recognized advisory board of medical experts
- ◆ Develop science-based medical standards and guidelines
- ◆ Chair FMCSA research panels on physical qualification standards and medical guidelines
- ◆ Advise on medical research and medical examiner training and certification
- ◆ Answer questions regarding CMV driver physical qualifications



Decision Model to Prioritize Research Panels

- ◆ Prevalence in general population (epidemiology)
- ◆ Crash risk (direct measurable risk for CMV crash)
- ◆ FMCSA priorities (e.g., statutory requirement)
- ◆ Age of guidelines
- ◆ Adequacy of guidance



Medical Panels

- ◆ Comprehensive review panels
 - 12 – 18 months
 - MRB member chairs scientific panel

- ◆ Expedited review panels
 - 3 – 6 months
 - FMCSA designates scientific panel membership
 - Specific issue updated

- ◆ Provide ongoing review cycle



Panel Schedule

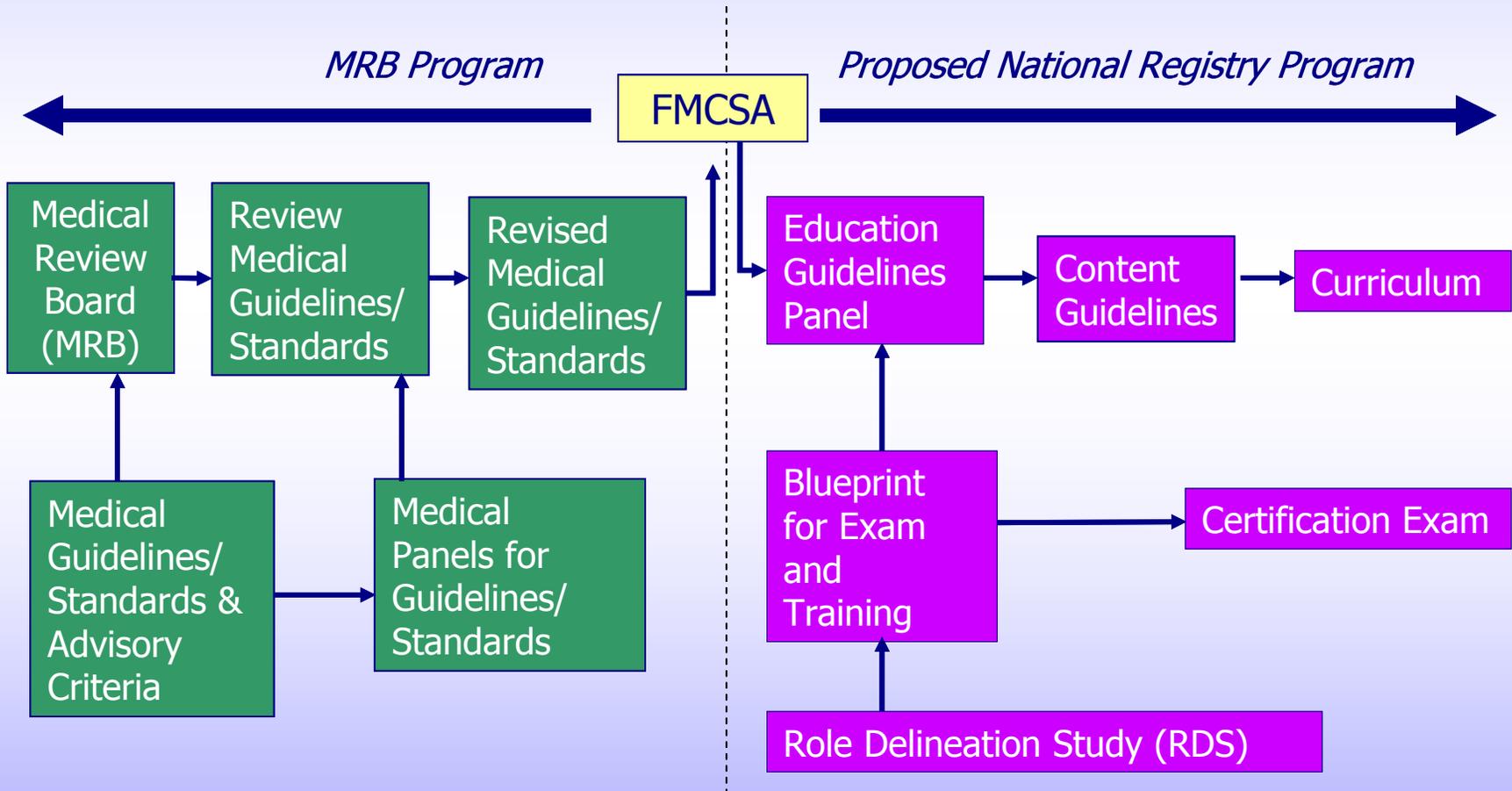
| Quarter | Comprehensive review: 12 – 18 months | Expedited review: Focused, 3 – 6 months |
|---------|---|--|
| Q1 2006 | Drug Alcohol | Diabetes |
| Q2 2006 | Sleep Neurology | Cardiovascular |
| Q3 2006 | Musculoskeletal Disease | Vision Hearing |
| Q4 2006 | Psychiatry Renal Disease | Infectious Disease |
| Q1 2007 | Injury | Post-surgical |
| Q2 2007 | Medical-legal | Pulmonary |



National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

- ◆ Develop comprehensive list of medical examiners who can conduct driver physical examinations
- ◆ Train, test, certify, and recertify medical examiners
- ◆ Ensure that medical examiners fully understand the medical standards in the FMCSRs and how they apply to CMV drivers
- ◆ Ensure that the list of certified medical examiners is easily accessible to drivers and motor carriers

Relationship Between MRB and the National Registry





Projected Outcomes FY 2005 – 2009

- ◆ Updated medical standards and guidelines with rulemakings
- ◆ CDL licensing action linked to medical certification process
- ◆ Institutionalized MRB with established cycle of ongoing medical standards review
- ◆ Accredited National Registry training and education program
- ◆ Reduced or eliminated need for medical exemptions and certificates

Strategy for Keeping the Public Informed . . .



- ◆ Federal Register notices
- ◆ FMCSA web site (Medical Program Page):
www.fmcsa.dot.gov
- ◆ National Registry web site:
www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov
- ◆ MRB web site under construction
- ◆ New web sites, web-based solutions (e.g., e-mail, FAQs, on-line application process)

