

Update from Medical Program: Medical Standards & Medical Review Board

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U. S. Department of Transportation
St. Louis, Missouri
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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Current Medical Program Activities

- Medical standards and guidelines
- Rulemaking
- Research
- Inquiries and technical support
- Conflict resolution
- Medical exemptions (e.g., vision, diabetes)
- Limb impairment certificates

Medical Standards/Regulations

- 13 Standards Total
 - Directly related to driving
- 9 Standards
 - Medical examiner discretion
- 4 Standards
 - **NO** medical examiner discretion
 - Hearing
 - Vision
 - Epilepsy (seizure disorder)
 - Insulin-treated diabetes



Medical Exemptions/SPE Certificates

- Federal Vision Exemption Program
 - 1,500 active drivers
- Federal Diabetes Exemption Program
 - 13 drivers approved, 47 pending approvals
 - dramatic increase (since SAFETEA-LU enacted)
- Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE)
Certificate Program (formerly Limb Waiver
Program)
 - 3,400+ active drivers

Medical Program Challenges

- Number of regulated drivers
- Inconsistent medical guidelines
- Dated medical guidelines
- Lack of medical standards in key areas
- Medical examiner training



SAFETEA-LU Implementation Strategy

- Performance-based medical standards
- Effective medical standards
- Programs linked to safety impact(s)
- Services to drivers, motor carriers, the medical examiner community and the public

Major Initiatives

- Establish Medical Review Board
- Revise medical standards, guidelines
- Establish National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners
- Merge medical certification/CDL processes
- Develop long-term program/research strategies

Medical Review Board

Criteria for appointment:

- Medical expertise in relevant medical specialty and clinical practice
- Understanding of research methods
- Knowledge of transportation medical issues
- Experience on panels that develop medical standards

Medical Review Board

- Record of professional service
- Experience developing teaching programs



Medical Review Board

- Nationally recognized advisory board of medical experts
- Science-based medical standards and guidelines
- Research panels
- Medical research and medical examiner training and certification
- Requests regarding CMV driver physical qualifications



Medical Review Board

- **First meeting scheduled August 31, Washington, DC**
- **Second meeting scheduled November 1, Washington, DC**
- **Research panels will be convened to support the MRB process**

Decision Model to Prioritize Research Panels

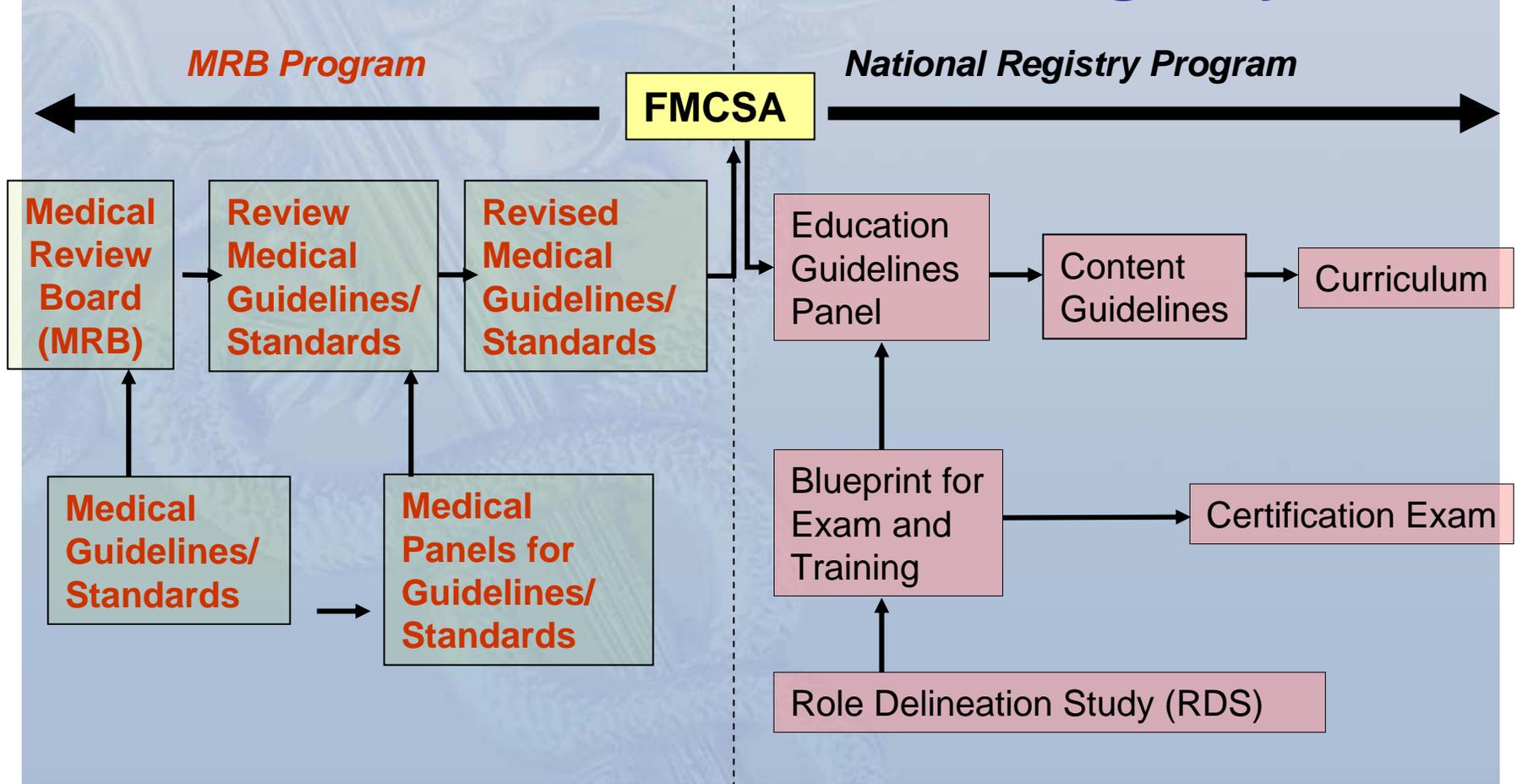
- Crash risk (direct measurable risk for CMV crash)
- FMCSA priorities (e.g., statutory requirement)
- Age of guidelines
- Adequacy of guidance
- Prevalence in general population (epidemiology)

2006 Panel Schedule

- August 2006: Diabetes
- September 2006: Schedule II Medications
- Other conditions



Relationship Between MRB and the National Registry



Strategy for Keeping the Public Informed

- Federal Register notices
- FMCSA Web site (Medical Program Page):
www.fmcsa.dot.gov
- National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Web site:
www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov
- Medical Review Board Web site:
www.mrb.fmcsa.dot.gov (under construction)
- New Web sites, Web-based solutions (e.g., e-mail, FAQs, on-line application process)