



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420**

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UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER

**IMPAIRED DRIVING IN OLDER ADULTS
ETHICAL CHALLENGES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

1. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter provides clinicians and managers with information about ethical challenges for health care professionals managing older patients who may have impaired driving skills.
2. Health care professionals treating older adults who may be at risk for impaired driving must balance dual professional obligations to promote patient well-being and to protect public health. A new report by VHA's National Ethics Committee, Impaired Driving in Older Adults: Ethical Challenges for Health Care Professionals:
 - a. Analyzes the ethical challenges around impaired driving in older adults;
 - b. Explores the emerging professional consensus regarding management of patients at risk for impaired driving; and
 - c. Offers practical guidance to help VHA health care professionals address these ethical challenges in day-to-day patient care.
3. To ensure that practitioners throughout the VHA system are familiar with the ethical aspects of impaired driving in older adults, clinicians and managers are encouraged to review this report and consider appropriate local actions to implement its recommendations.
4. The report is available from the National Center for Ethics in Health Care at: <http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/pubs/necreports.asp>.
5. Questions about the report may be directed to Ellen Fox, MD (10E), Chief Ethics in Health Care Officer, National Center for Ethics in Health Care, (202) 501-0364.

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