



DOT Medical Clearance Request

Meningitis / Encephalitis

In accordance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) guidelines, we respectfully request your professional opinion regarding this driver's ability to safely operate a commercial vehicle given their history of **Meningitis / Encephalitis**. Per 49 CFR §391.41(b)(9) and the 2024 FMCSA Medical Examiner's Handbook, this condition requires specialist evaluation and documentation before DOT medical certification can be issued or renewed.

PATIENT NAME	DATE OF BIRTH

FMCSA Guidelines — Meningitis / Encephalitis

Note: Per the 2024 FMCSA Medical Examiner's Handbook (§4.11.3.7), infections of the central nervous system — including bacterial meningitis, viral meningitis, viral encephalitis, and herpes encephalitis — are evaluated under §391.41(b)(8) and (b)(9). These conditions carry risk of residual neurological, cognitive, and psychiatric sequelae that must be fully assessed before CMV certification can be considered. The ME must determine whether any residual effects impair alertness, judgment, memory, psychomotor function, or seizure threshold in a way that would affect the safe operation of a commercial motor vehicle. Neurology or infectious disease clearance is required.

For certification, please confirm:

- Confirmed diagnosis documented — specify type (bacterial meningitis, viral meningitis, viral encephalitis, herpes encephalitis, or other) and date of acute illness onset and resolution
- Complete neurological evaluation performed — including cognitive testing, cranial nerve assessment, motor and sensory function, and documentation of any residual neurological deficits
- Acute infection fully resolved and treatment course completed — antibiotics, antivirals, or immunotherapy as applicable, with documentation of clinical and laboratory confirmation of resolution
- Driver has been neurologically stable and symptom-free for a minimum of 12 months following resolution of acute illness — no seizures, no encephalopathic episodes, no significant cognitive or behavioral changes during this period and since initiation of treatment
- No post-infectious seizure disorder established — if seizures occurred in the acute phase or developed post-infection, the driver must meet the applicable FMCSA seizure-free standards under §391.41(b)(8) before certification can be considered cleared per FMCSA device standards
- Current medications reviewed and assessed — anticonvulsants, antidepressants, or other CNS-active agents prescribed for post-infectious sequelae must not cause sedation or psychomotor impairment at current doses

The following are disqualifying:

- Active or incompletely treated CNS infection — meningitis or encephalitis not yet fully resolved, or treatment course not completed
- Residual cognitive impairment — memory deficits, executive dysfunction, attention impairment, or behavioral changes affecting the ability to safely operate a CMV of benign etiology
- Post-infectious seizure disorder not meeting FMCSA seizure-free standards — any seizure activity following acute illness must meet the applicable waiting periods under §391.41(b)(8) before certification is not fully treated or controlled
- Psychological or psychiatric sequelae — post-infectious depression, anxiety, psychosis, or personality change that independently affects fitness for CMV operation is subject to **separate FMCSA epilepsy certification standards under §391.41(b)(8)**
- Persistent focal neurological deficits affecting motor control, coordination, vision, or hearing that impair the ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle independently disqualifying



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Commercial Driver Physical Demands

Commercial motor vehicle operation places substantial physical demands on drivers that extend well beyond the act of driving. Drivers are routinely required to load and unload cargo, couple and uncouple trailers requiring full range of motion to climb, grip, and pull, lift and install tire chains weighing between 35 and 90 pounds, and tarp open trailers requiring lifting motions of 50 to 100 pounds — often after extended periods of sitting without a stretching period. In addition to these labor demands, drivers must maintain sustained perceptual alertness, control an oversized steering wheel, operate manual transmissions, maneuver large vehicles in confined spaces, and safely enter and exit the cab, which is physically comparable to climbing a ladder. These combined physical and cognitive demands should be carefully considered when determining this driver's fitness for commercial driving duties.

Provider Certification

- ☐ **CLEARED** — The driver meets the above requirements and in my clinical opinion is medically cleared to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.
- ☐ **NOT CLEARED** — The driver does not meet the above requirements and in my clinical opinion cannot safely operate a commercial motor vehicle at this time.
- ☐ **CLEARED WITH DISCRETION** — The driver does not meet one or more guidelines; however, in my clinical opinion the driver is safe to operate a commercial motor vehicle for the following reason(s):

PROVIDER NAME (PRINT)

SPECIALTY / TITLE

DATE

PROVIDER SIGNATURE

ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

PHONE / FAX

This form must be completed and signed prior to the scheduled examination date. A physician office stamp is strongly recommended to validate the authenticity of this document. Incomplete or unstamped forms may delay the certification process. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles on our nation's roadways. **RoadReadyMed.com**