



DOT Medical Clearance Request

Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MAT)

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 use of **Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MAT)**. Per 49 CFR §391.41(b)(8) and §391.41(b)(12) and the 2024 FMCSA Medical Examiner's Handbook, this condition is recognized as effectively disqualifying due to the risk of sudden loss of consciousness or excessive daytime sleepiness that may impair the safe operation of a commercial motor vehicle. The medical examiner requires specialist documentation prior to making a certification determination.

PATIENT NAME	DATE OF BIRTH

FMCSA Guidelines — Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MAT)

Note: Per the 2024 FMCSA Medical Examiner's Handbook, methadone dispensed through a federally regulated Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) is no longer an automatic disqualifier for DOT medical certification. It is evaluated on a case-by-case basis under the functional impairment framework. Due to methadone's full opioid agonist profile, long and unpredictable half-life, QTc prolongation risk, and peak sedation window occurring hours after ingestion, a higher standard of documentation is required compared to other MAT medications. A minimum of 12 months of stable dosing with no dose changes, diversion concerns, or positive drug screens is the clinical benchmark. This clearance letter must be completed by the OTP Medical Director, not a general practitioner.

For certification, please confirm:

- Confirmed diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) currently treated with methadone dispensed through a federally regulated Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) — current daily dose in milligrams must be specified
- Driver has been on a stable methadone dose for a minimum of 12 months with no dose changes, no supplemental opioid doses, no missed clinic visits, and no diversion concerns during this period
- Underlying cause has been identified and is currently being treated or has resolved
- No positive urine drug screen for illicit opioids, non-prescribed controlled substances, or alcohol within the past 12 months — most recent UDS result and date must be provided
- Current methadone dose does not cause sedation, cognitive impairment, or psychomotor slowing during the driver's working hours — OTP Medical Director must attest that peak sedation window does not overlap with CMV operation hours and that the driver is alert and functional at peak plasma levels
- Driver's take-home privilege status documented — take-home privileges are a recognized indicator of treatment stability; daily observed dosing only indicates insufficient stability for certification consideration. Most recent ECG or QTc measurement must be provided given methadone's known QTc prolongation risk

The following are disqualifying:

- Active opioid use disorder with ongoing illicit opioid use — methadone treatment is not yet stabilized or compliance has not been established
- Less than 12 months at a stable methadone dose — insufficient stability period for CMV certification consideration
- Positive urine drug screen for illicit opioids, non-prescribed controlled substances, or alcohol within the past 12 months
- QTc interval exceeding 470 ms in males or 480 ms in females on most recent ECG — **the MAT certification framework applies only to OUD treatment, not opioid pain management**
- Observable sedation, cognitive impairment, slurred speech, or psychomotor slowing at the time of today's examination — regardless of reported dose stability or OTP documentation. Driver on daily observed dosing only (no take-home privileges) is not considered sufficiently stable for CMV certification



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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