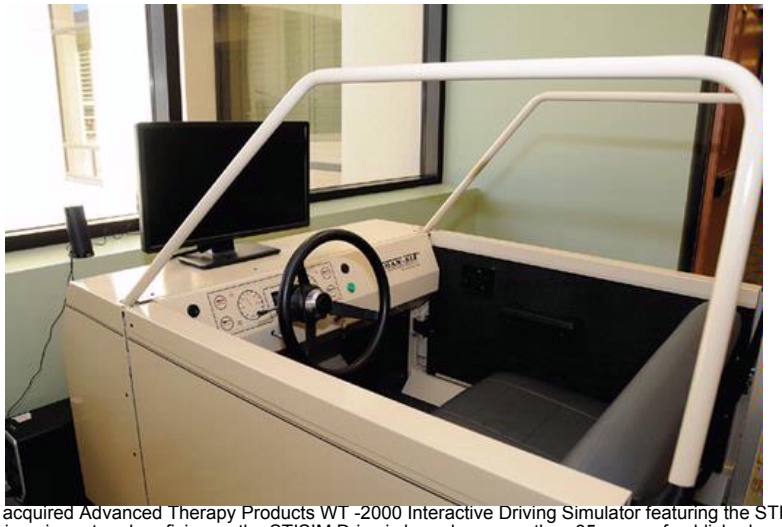
Eisenhower Medical Center Now Offering Driving Simulator/Driver Fitness Assessment Program



Eisenhower Medical Center recently acquired Advanced Therapy Products WT -2000 Interactive Driving Simulator featuring the STISIM Drive™ Interactive Software. Developed for evaluating human subject impairment and proficiency, the STISIM Drive is based on more than 35 years of published research on vehicle dynamics and driver behavior and is used by driver rehabilitation programs for evaluating driver performance, and selection and training on adaptive driving controls.

The WT -2000 Interactive Driving Simulators can assess cognitive and psychomotor capability on a day-to-day basis. In addition to standard driving scenarios, the STISIM Drive software allows the user to conveniently customize an assessment to a specific driver's needs. It can record a wide variety of driver performance measures (number and type of accidents, lane deviation, speed control, divided attention, reaction time, accident avoidance and more) and provides a detailed, printable report. Plus, the 'replay' feature can store and rerun every scenario exactly how it was driven for patient performance review and education.

These versatile systems provide a full-color 'virtual' world with all the sights and sounds of a real driving experience — even a 'virtual' rear-view mirror! During your 'virtual' drive you can turn corners, change lanes, speed-up, slow-down, stop and start — all the things you do in a real car.

Occupational Therapists in Eisenhower's Rehabilitation Department use this device as part of a comprehensive evaluation of their patient's physical, cognitive, and perceptual motor skills and abilities that impact their driving performance. Therapists use the device as part of therapy programs to work on progression of these areas while patients benefit by experiencing and becoming aware of their own abilities in a controlled environment.

This simulator compliments the existing AARP/AAA Car-Fit Program, which is a program designed to evaluate a mature drivers' fit to their car. Changes in vision, strength, range of motion, and even height may make older drivers less comfortable and reduce their control behind the wheel. Eisenhower's Occupational Therapists are trained to provide a quick yet comprehensive check on how well seniors work with their vehicles, and provide specific practical community resources to help older drivers maintain safe and independent driving. In addition, some patients may require a behind-the-wheel assessment.

If you are concerned about your driving skills, or those of a loved one, contact your primary care physician to discuss the next step. For more information, please call 760-773-1630.

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