

Best Practices for SDLAs that Have Implemented NRII

This document outlines best practices for State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) to follow when assisting commercial learner's permit (CLP) applicants and commercial driver's license (CDL) holders in States that have implemented the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Rule (NRII). As of June 23, 2025, all SDLAs are required to receive medical examiner's certificate information electronically from FMCSA's National Registry and to post the information on the driver's CDLIS record.

These best practices apply in States that have implemented NRII. States that have not implemented NRII continue to accept paper medical examiner's certificates until the State implements NRII, as described in FMCSA's guidance here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/if-state-has-not-implemented-national-registry-ii-june-23-2025-compliance-date>

1. Pulling Drivers' Medical Certifications via CD43

SDLAs should be aware of two NRII transactions: (1) the push transactions from the National Registry to the SDLAs (referred to as pushing via CD42) and (2) the pull transactions that allow the SDLAs to retrieve a driver's medical examiner's certificate information from FMCSA's National Registry (referred to as pulling via CD43).

SDLAs should pull the information via CD43 when:

- A driver has confirmed that the medical examiner submitted the driver's medical examiner's certificate to the National Registry, but the certification was not pushed to the SDLA via CD42.
- A driver's medical examiner's certificate was submitted to the National Registry before the State implemented NRII.
- A driver applies for a CLP.

To pull via CD43:

- Log into your State's NRII-integrated system.
- Initiate a pull using the driver's:
 - First name and last name and date of birth (Important note: using the driver's middle name or initial may not return any results for the driver), or;
 - Driver's license number and licensing State (some States may require additional data fields).
- If a record is retrieved:
 - Link it to the driver's record.
 - If mismatches are identified, advise the driver to have the medical examiner (ME) correct the record and re-submit to the National Registry.

2. Supporting Variance-Dependent Drivers

Medical certifications requiring a variance from FMCSA (an exemption, waiver, or skill performance evaluation certificate) will not transmit to the SDLA until FMCSA issues the variance.

- The Medical Examiner's Certificate (Form MCSA-5876) will indicate "Accompanied by a waiver/exemption" or "Accompanied by a Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate" if the driver requires a variance from FMCSA.



- NOTE: If the Form MCSA-5876 indicates that the driver requires a vision or diabetes exemption, the ME will need to correct the error. FMCSA no longer issues vision and diabetes exemptions because FMCSA published revisions to the vision and diabetes standards under which the ME evaluates the driver.
- Once FMCSA has issued the variance, the National Registry will link the variance with the driver's examination results and transmit the information to the SDLA.

Summary Table: SDLA Actions

Driver Scenario	SDLA Action
Medical certification not posted on driver's record but was submitted after State's NRII implementation date; OR Medical certification not posted on driver's record but was submitted before State's NRII implementation date; OR New CLP applicant	Attempt pull via CD43. If not found, advise driver to contact ME to confirm information was submitted to the NR and there are no error message tasks for the ME to complete. Attempt to pull via CD43 again. If a driver presents a paper Form MCSA-5876, use the paper copy to troubleshoot transmission errors.
Driver requires a medical variance from FMCSA	Advise the driver that the driver needs to apply for and receive the variance from FMCSA before the medical certification will post to the driver's CDLIS record. Remind the driver that the driver must carry the variance documentation while operating.
Driver presents Form MCSA-5876 paper copy to SDLA	Use for troubleshooting only—not as proof of certification
State of record change	Complete promptly to prevent disruption in National Registry posting

3. Additional Resources

- Drivers may contact FMCSA Technical Support if the SDLA is unable to retrieve the driver's medical certification:

National Registry Technical Support Helpdesk:
FMCTECHSUP@dot.gov
 (617) 494-3003, select option #2

- Refer to the NRII Learning Center for a list of States that have not implemented NRII, FAQs, troubleshooting guides, and more:

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/nriilearning-center>