



The Matty Fund®  
Epilepsy Resource Center  
Helping Others with Epilepsy  
[www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org)

March, 2012

The Matty Fund and The University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy will present an Epilepsy Medication Workshop on Tuesday, April 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Warwick. Families may share their questions ahead of time or ask questions following a brief presentation regarding some of the most commonly prescribed medications for children diagnosed with epilepsy. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information or to register (this is a free event) please contact the Matty Fund Epilepsy Resource Center at 401-789-7330. More information and printable forms for submitting questions to the College of Pharmacy can also be found on our website: [www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org).

### Can you drive an automobile if you have epilepsy?

Yes, if your seizures are controlled with treatment and you meet the licensing requirements in your state. The most common requirement for people with epilepsy is that they are seizure-free for a specified period of time and submit a physician's evaluation of their ability to drive safely. Another common requirement is the periodic submission of medical reports, in some states for a specified period of time, and in others for as long as the person remains licensed. In Rhode Island, in order to obtain a license, a person with epilepsy must submit a doctor's certification that he or she is able to drive safely. Although the driver's licensing statute does not specify a required seizure-free period, the Department of Transportation reports that in most cases it uses an 18-month seizure-free period. The medical information submitted is reviewed by the Administrator for the Division of Motor Vehicles, who may consult with the Medical Advisory Board. (R.I. GEN. LAWS 31-10-3(a)(7)-(8), 31-10-44 (2011)). The necessity of periodic medical updates is at the discretion of the DMV.

Restricted licenses are available and may include daytime driving only, driving to and from work or within a certain distance from home, or driving only in an emergency. (R.I. GEN LAWS 31-10-28) A person whose license has been denied, suspended or revoked for medical reasons may appeal the decision to the Administrative Adjudication Court. The appeal must be filed within 10 days of the decision (R.I. GEN. LAWS 31-11-15) Under Rhode Island law, physicians are not required to report a driver with epilepsy but they may voluntarily provide the person's name to the Medical Advisory Board within the DMV.

*(The information in this article was obtained from [www.epilepsyfoundation.org](http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org))*



### Matty's Scholarship

**Applications due April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
The Matty Fund awards two (2) \$1,000 college scholarships to RI high school seniors diagnosed with epilepsy. Application can be found on our website on the scholarship page (on the resources drop down menu)



**Matty's Egg Hunt for Matty Fund Families...**

**March 31  
Noon – 2 p.m.**

**Matty's Place  
Playground**

Hazard School, Wakefield  
Please RSVP to 789-7330 or  
[MattyFund@cox.net](mailto:MattyFund@cox.net)



### Meet Carol Manglass...

Carol has been named family and education resource specialist for The Matty Fund. In this role, Carol will assist families seeking support and information. Previously, she was a parent consultant for the Rhode Island Parent Information Network. Carol would like to plan some information sessions for families here at the Resource Center starting this spring. If you have an idea or topic that you would like to see covered please let her know.

Carol can be reached at: 401-789-7330 or email: [Cmanglass@MattyFund.org](mailto:Cmanglass@MattyFund.org)

P.O. Box 5300, Wakefield, RI 02880 • [www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org)

