Emergency Department

Fitness to Drive in Common Medical Presentations

Many conditions seen in the emergency department are associated with driving restrictions. It is standard practice to ask all patients about their driving status.

Doctors have a duty to advise patients on the impact that their medical condition has on their ability to drive safely. They must also inform patients of the legal requirement to notify the DVLA where necessary. Doctors must notify the DVLA if the patient cannot or will not do this themselves.

The advice below pertains to the DVLA’s medical restrictions on driving, for conditions with which patients may be discharged home from the emergency department. For information on psychiatric conditions, please refer to Chapter 4 of the DVLA’s guidance document.

Medical standards for driver licensing may vary depending on the license group:

- **Cars and motorcycles** (1)
- **Lorries and buses** (2)

Drivers who obtained a Group 1 license before 01/01/1997 maintain an automatic entitlement to drive medium-sized lorries and minibuses.

*Note: If driving is to be restricted, general advice would be not to drive until further investigations/seen by a specialist.*

*For further information about the restrictions stated above, please refer to Chapter 1 of the DVLA’s guidance document.*

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**Key**
- May drive and need not notify the DVLA
- May drive but must notify the DVLA
- Must not drive but need not currently inform the DVLA
- Must not drive and must inform the DVLA

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**Seizure** (first/multiple including drug/alcohol induced)
- **Cerebrovascular Event**
  - **TIA**
  - **Stroke**
  - **Cardiovascular** (excluding typical vasovagal syncope)
  - **Unexplained syncope (including syncope without reliable prodrome)**
  - **Cough syncope/ presyncope**
- **Vertigo** (sudden/unprovoked & disabling)
- **Intracranial pathology on CT**
  - Check against DVLA guidance*

- **Avoidable trigger which will not occur whilst driving?**
- **Sitting**
- **Standing**

*For further information about the restrictions stated above, please refer to Chapter 1 of the DVLA’s guidance document.*
Angina

Cardiovascular

ECG abnormality (excluding long QTc & Brugada)

Arrhythmia (likely to cause incapacity)

Aortic Aneurysm (incidental finding)

Symptomatic Heart Failure

Valve Disease

Aortic Stenosis

Other

Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)

Complete Heart Block

LBBB

AMI

Symptoms at rest, with emotion or at the wheel?

No

Yes

Pre-excitation

<6cm

≥6.4cm

≥6.5cm

Symptoms likely to distract driver?

No

Yes

For further information about the restrictions stated above, please refer to Chapter 2 of the DVLA’s guidance document.

Hypoglycaemia

Unawareness

Alcohol/Drug Misuse/Dependence

Visual Disorders

Cognitive Impairment

Excessive sleepiness

Temporary Conditions which may affect Fitness to Drive (expected course <3 months)

Limb Injuries/#s

Medications (consider benzodiazepines, opioids, SSRIs, antipsychotics)

Visual Field Defect

Blepharospasm

Diplopia

Symptomatic >3 months

Severe Migraine/Concussion

For further information about the restrictions stated above, please refer to Chapters 3-8 of the DVLA’s guidance document.

Authors: A. Hudson, S. Saunter, R. Grant
For review: September 2018 (N.B. DVLA advice is subject to change and may need local review more frequently.)