



PATIENT INFORMATION

Drugs, Alcohol and Driving

Why have I been given this leaflet?

You have been given this leaflet because it explains your legal responsibilities about drugs, alcohol and driving licence.

What are my legal responsibilities around drugs, alcohol and driving?

If you hold, or are applying for, any type of driving licence, it is **your** legal responsibility to inform DVLA (Driving Vehicle Licensing Authority) of any medical conditions which may affect your fitness to drive –this includes drug or alcohol misuse/dependence.

Can I Still Drive?

You must stop driving until the DVLA has confirmed that the licence holder or licence applicant can drive. Even if you do not intend to drive for the short, medium or foreseeable future, you are still required to notify DVLA. You may wish to consider surrendering your licence to DVLA voluntarily and re-applying for it at a later date. This may make it easier for you to re-apply to DVLA for your licence when you have sorted out your drug/alcohol use. You can find more information on license surrender and a declaration of surrender form from http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/MedicalRulesForDrivers/DG_4022414

Why do I have to inform DVLA that I am a drug or alcohol user?

DVLA rules state that you must inform them if you have experienced **drug or alcohol misuse or dependency in the past 3 years** because it may affect your fitness to drive. DVLA also state that you must tell them if you are prescribed methadone or buprenorphine (Subutex®).

How do I inform DVLA?

DVLA can send you the forms to fill out and return. Their address is: Drivers Medical Group, DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1TU. You can also phone them on: 0870 600 0301 (Monday to Friday, 8.15 am to 4.30pm) or email them at: eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk. The forms can also be downloaded on the DVLA website: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/index.htm>.

What happens when I inform DVLA of my drug/alcohol use?

This depends on the extent of your drug/alcohol use and what type of driving licence you hold/have applied for. However it is likely that your doctor would be contacted for a medical report and you may be required to attend a medical appointment. If DVLA believe that your fitness to drive is affected, your driving licence/application could be revoked for a *minimum* period of six months. If you are complying with a methadone or Subutex® programme and are not using any other

drugs (including cannabis) you may be permitted to continue driving, but you will still be required to demonstrate that you have been free of illicit drug use (e.g. 12 months for heroin). Decisions about your license made by DVLA are generally reviewed every year.

Who informs the DVLA?

It remains your responsibility to inform DVLA that you hold a valid/current UK driving licence. You will be expected to sign this form as confirmation that you have read and understood it. If we are contacted by the DVLA to request information relating to Driving we will seek your consent before sharing this information; however if there is deemed to be a significant risk of harm we are obliged to share information to protect the public and yours elf. It is important to note that; this service cannot pay travel claims for petrol to a service user driving to an appointment with the service unless written evidence from the DVLA has been copied and placed on file. If you are observed using a vehicle and presenting as overtly intoxicated then we will contact the police to request support in managing potential risk to yourself and others.

Are there any other medical conditions I should inform DVLA about?

If you have any mental ill-health conditions (including depression) or any psychiatric illnesses which need hospital admission, you are also required to inform DVLA. You are advised to discuss any other medical conditions with your GP/consultant or contact DVLA to discuss this further.

What if I don't inform DVLA?

Failure to inform DVLA is a criminal offence and you could receive a fine of up to £1000.

How can I find out more information?

Contact DVLA or if you have access to the internet, log onto: www.direct.gov.uk/motoring.

I confirm that I have read this Drugs Alcohol and Driving information sheet and I am fully aware of my responsibility to inform the DVLA of my current status as a client of the Torbay Drug and Alcohol Service.

Name: **Signed:** **Date:** / ... / ...