

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Drugs, Alcohol and Driving

### Why have I been given this leaflet?

Your doctor or Health Care Professional has told you that **you must not drive**, and you need to contact the DVLA. This leaflet explains your legal responsibilities about drugs, alcohol, and your 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 the DVLA (Driving Vehicle Licensing Authority) of any medical conditions which may affect your fitness to drive.

This includes if you are:

- Alcohol dependent, persistently misuse alcohol, have a seizure (fit) caused by alcohol (or any other reason) or an alcohol related disorder which impairs your cognition.
- Drug dependent, persistently misuse drugs, have a seizure (fit) caused by drugs (or any other reason), on a methadone or buprenorphine programme.

### I have had a detox in hospital, plan not to drink/use drugs when discharged?

You **must inform the DVLA**, even if:

- Have received a full alcohol/drug detox in hospital.
- Plan not to use alcohol or drugs post hospital discharge.
- Plan to control your drinking/drug use post hospital discharge

### How do I inform DVLA?

You can provide your information over the phone, through a website form, online chat or they can send you a form to complete and post back. Contact them via:

- **By post:** Drivers Medical Group, DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1TU.
- **By phone:** 0300 790 6806, Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm and Saturdays - 8am to 2 pm.
- Via a website form or online chat through their website:  
[www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla/y/driving-and-medical-issues](http://www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla/y/driving-and-medical-issues)

## **I do not intend to drive until I have sorted out my drug/alcohol use – do I need to let DVLA know?**

Even if you do not intend to drive for the short, medium, or foreseeable future, you are still required to notify DVLA.

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

This depends on the extent of your drug/alcohol use or medical condition and what type of driving license you hold/have applied for. They may contact your GP for a medical report, and you may need to attend a medical appointment.

If you are on a Methadone or buprenorphine program you must also contact the DVLA, they will review if you have been complying with the programme and whether you have continued to use any drugs (including cannabis).

If DVLA believe that your fitness to drive is affected, your driving license/application may be suspended. The DVLA will explain how long these restrictions will be in place and criteria to reinstate your licence/continue with your driving licence application.

## **Will my doctor, recovery worker or other health professional inform DVLA?**

Although it is your responsibility to inform DVLA, they can notify DVLA if they believe by continuing to drive you may cause danger to yourself or other people. They will always try to discuss it with you first, unless they judge there is danger to life by waiting until they can discuss it with you.

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

Speak to your GP or clinician who can advise if you need to inform the DVLA of any other medical condition. You can also find information on reportable medical conditions on the DVLA website or contact DVLA to discuss this further.

## **What if I do not inform DVLA?**

Failure to inform DVLA is a criminal offence. You may be liable for a fine/prosecution and could invalidate your motor vehicle insurance.

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## **If you would like support with your alcohol or drug use, you can contact your local community service below:**

### **Torbay**

Torbay Drug and Alcohol Service, Walnut Lodge and Shrublands House.  
Phone: 01803 604330

### **South Devon**

Devon Alcohol Service, Together.  
Phone: 0800 233 5444

## **Your GP service is a reliable source for information and support.**

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.  
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