

PATIENT INFORMATION

Driving and Double Vision

Group 1 licence holders (private cars and motorbikes)

Can I drive with double vision (diplopia)?

This is a common concern when you have double vision. Double vision is seeing two images of the same object, and it can present suddenly or gradually. Double vision will affect your ability to judge distances and can make you feel unwell and disorientated.

The DVLA does not allow you to drive with double vision. If you develop double vision and/or this is confirmed by your hospital eye specialist, you should stop driving and inform the DVLA of your diagnosis.

Driving is allowed if the double vision can be controlled.

- Glasses with or without a prescribed prism (a lens applied to glasses that brings the two images together)
- An eye patch over one side of your glasses. The eye that is not covered must have good enough vision to meet normal driving requirements. Time is also required to adapt to driving with one eye.
- There are exceptions where driving is permitted without the use of a prism or an eye patch. These situations are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

What does the DVLA say for Group One car or motorbike licence?

- You must NOT drive with double vision
- You must contact the DVLA if you have any medical condition that affects your driving - failure to do so could result in a £1000 fine and you could be prosecuted if you have an accident
- You must contact the DVLA online or by phone to tell them you have double vision

Why do I need to report diplopia to the DVLA?

The DVLA may fine you for not informing them about a medical condition that affects your driving. If you are involved in an accident, you could even be prosecuted and your current insurance may be invalidated. It is your responsibility to report diplopia to the DVLA, not your medical team.

What happens next?

The DVLA can be contacted at-

Telephone 0300 790 6806 Monday-Friday 8am – 7pm

Drivers Medical Group DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1DF.

The DVLA may send you a questionnaire to fill out and return to them.

They will then decide if you are able to resume driving once, they have confirmation that the diplopia is controlled.

Further information

<https://www.gov.uk/diplopia-and-driving>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visual-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive>

CONTACT

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