Neuro-oncology service

DVLA driving regulations: brain tumours

This factsheet explains the rules on driving for people diagnosed with a brain tumour.

These regulations only apply to Group 1 driving entitlements (car and motorcycle licence). It does not apply to Group 2 entitlements - large lorries (category C) and buses (category D). For this group please contact the DVLA for more details.

The driving regulations are issued by the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) in Swansea. If for medical reasons you are not fit to drive, the DVLA will take your licence from you. They will issue you with a new one once you are declared fit to drive again by your doctor. You do not have to re-take your driving test. The DVLA will contact your specialist and will take each decision on an individual basis depending on what your doctor says about your level of fitness and risk of further symptoms.

Informing the DVLA about a medical condition

By law you must inform the DVLA if you have had, or currently suffer from a medical condition or disability that may affect your driving including:

- Problems with your nervous system.
- Treatment, weakness or visual problem that prevents normal daily activities.
- Medication that causes side effects likely to affect safe driving.

In other words, as soon as you are diagnosed with a brain tumour you must inform the DVLA. You will also need to provide details if you develop a new condition or disability or one that has become worse since your licence was issued.

You could be fined up to £1,000 if you don’t tell DVLA about a condition that might affect your ability to drive safely. You could also be prosecuted if you have an accident.
Quick step by step guide:

- Once you have been diagnosed with a brain tumour you must by law inform the DVLA.
- When you inform the DVLA of your diagnosis, it is a good idea to **surrender** your licence and send it to them at the same time. Failure to do so may result in the DVLA **revoking** your licence – this makes the process much more complicated. Gaining their permission to drive again is much lengthier and complex if your licence has been revoked.
- If you **surrendered** your licence, you can apply to get it back two months before the end of the period for which you have been disqualified from driving – **provided your doctor has told you that you are fit to drive**. You can start driving as soon as you have lodged this application.
- If your licence was **revoked** by the DVLA the same application process as above applies. However, you cannot start driving until the DVLA decides whether or not you are medically fit to drive – this can be a long and drawn out process.

Please read the below brain tumour information and if required, fill in the "Declaration of Surrender for Medical Reasons" form (available from the DVLA), see link: Declaration of Surrender for Medical Reasons and send it to the following address:

- Drivers Medical Group, DVLA, SWANSEA, SA99 1TU

**For further information please contact:**

**The DVLA Drivers Medical Enquiries**

DVLA
Swansea
SA99 1TU

**Telephone:** 0300 790 6806
Monday to Friday 08:00 to 17:30 hours
Saturday 08:00 to 13:00 hours

**Fax:** 0300 083 0083

**Email:** [https://emaildvla.direct.gov.uk/](https://emaildvla.direct.gov.uk/)

**Internet:** [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)

**DVLA helpline** - enquiries about driving licences:
0300 790 6806

**For general DVLA information visit:**
[www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving](http://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving)
DVLA guidelines

You must inform the DVLA of your condition. Below are some of the guidelines that the DVLA issue. To view/download the full medical rules document please go to their web address detailed above.

Do I have epilepsy if I have had a fit?

- Many people have a one off seizure (also referred to as a fit) at some point in their life that can be due to a number of reasons, such as certain medical conditions like diabetes or heart disease. You may also have had a fit if you have undergone neurosurgery as this can cause temporary irritation to the lining of the brain. This is very different to someone who suffers from epilepsy.
- Epilepsy is a neurological condition where people get recurrent seizures/ fits that arise from the brain itself due to abnormal electrical activity within the brain. You will need medication to control the symptoms. It is the most common serious neurological condition in the UK.

Epilepsy regulations:

- Any person having had an epilepsy attack/ fit whilst awake must refrain from driving for at least one year from the date of the attack.
- If you have a fit while asleep and haven’t previously had a sleeping fit then you will have to stop driving for one year. If you only suffer night time attacks and have had no daytime seizures over the last three years then you may be licensed providing no daytime attacks happen. This will be dealt with on an individual basis and is referred to as ‘asleep concessions’.
- An exception may be made if your fit was brought on as a result of intracranial surgery and you fulfil all other criteria that mean you are safe to drive. In these circumstances, the DVLA would look at your individual case and medical circumstances before making a ruling.

Driving and brain tumour types

You may not be allowed to drive for a while after you have had a brain tumour. This will depend on the type of brain tumour you had and where it was / is located.

If you have had a WHO grade I Meningioma you must not drive but need not notify the DVLA. Driving may resume after six months provided there is no debarring residual impairment likely to affect safe driving. The epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history. In this case, you are generally advised not to drive for one year.

WHO grade II Meningiomas treated with surgery require a ban from driving for one year. You are required to notify the DVLA. Epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history.
If you have **not** had any surgery and the meningioma is an incidental finding with no associated fits, you can retain your licence and drive as normal, and you do not need to notify the DVLA.

**Pituitary tumours**

If your pituitary tumour has been surgically treated with a craniotomy, you must not drive and you must notify the DVLA. Driving may resume after six months providing there is no visual field defect.

If it has been dealt with from a transphenoidal (nasal) approach or treated with radiotherapy for instance, you are allowed to drive on recovery, provided there are no lasting problems such as visual field disturbances. We advise you discuss this with your treating consultant.

**Supratentorial gliomas**

If you had a **WHO grade I or II glioma** (sometimes referred to as low grade gliomas), driving may resume one year after the completion of primary treatment. Where there is imaging evidence of tumour recurrence or progression, licensing may be considered if:

- there has been a one year seizure free period
- there is no clinical disease progression.

These will apply whether or not chemotherapy has been given. A one year license will usually be considered.

If you had a **WHO grade III or IV glioma** (sometimes referred to as high grade gliomas), you cannot drive for two years **after your treatment is complete**, following which your situation will be reviewed. Treatment includes not only surgery, but also chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy.

Examples of high grade gliomas are: Anaplastic Astrocytomas, anaplastic oligodendrogliomas and glioblastoma (often abbreviated to GBM). In some circumstances, the DVLA will say you cannot drive for longer than two years before they review your licence. All of these decisions are made after consulting your specialist and are based on medical reasons.

**Infratentorial gliomas**

These are normally treated slightly differently. Please contact your specialist nurse for advice or the DVLA medical enquiries address at the top of this leaflet.

**Solitary metastatic deposit**
Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Relicensing may be considered one year after completion of the primary treatment if there was complete excision, and provided there is no recurrence or evidence of metastasis.

**Multiple metastatic deposits or primary CNS lymphoma**

Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Driving may resume at least two years after the completion of primary treatment.

**Medulloblastoma or low grade ependymomas**

If either of these tumours have been completely removed with surgery, you will be considered for licensing one year after primary treatment, as long as there is no recurrence.

**High grade ependymomas, and other primary malignant brain tumours**

If you have any brain tumour other than those listed above, normally a period of two years driving restriction is imposed after completion of primary treatment.

If you are in doubt about any of the above, especially in regard to the type and grading of your tumour, please ask your key worker/nurse for advice, or contact the DVLA medical enquiries address at the start of this leaflet.

We are now a smoke-free site: smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the hospital site. For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

**Other formats:**

If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio, please ask the department where you are being treated, to contact the patient information team: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk.

Please note: We do not currently hold many leaflets in other languages; written translation requests are funded and agreed by the department who has authored the leaflet.