

Stroke Services

Driving after a stroke or TIA

This leaflet explains the procedures that you should follow if you want to drive again after a stroke or TIA (transient ischaemic attack/mini stroke)

Stroke advice:

You must not drive for a minimum of **one month** following a stroke. You do not need to inform DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) in this first month. However, you must inform your insurance company that you have had a stroke. If you do not inform your company, you may find that your insurance is invalid.

At the end of the one month period, please discuss with your GP whether you are able to return to driving.

One month after your stroke, you must inform DVLA if you have any ongoing effects from your stroke, such as:

- Weakness of the arms or legs
- Problems with your vision
- Problems with co-ordination
- Problems with memory or understanding
- Ongoing tiredness



You must also inform DVLA if any of the following apply:

- You have had a seizure of any kind, except for within 24 hours of the stroke happening.
- You have had brain surgery as part of the treatment for your stroke.
- You have had more than one stroke in the past three months.
- Your doctors have said they are concerned about your ability to drive.
- If you hold a LGV or PCV license.

Having ongoing problems following your stroke will not necessarily stop you from driving. You may need a driving assessment, where the staff will assess your driving and advise you on the best way to proceed. For example you may need some adaptations made to your vehicle. You can refer yourself for an assessment. (Please see contact list.)

It is also recommended to see an optician if you have any concerns regarding your vision following your stroke.

TIA advice:

You must not drive for **one month** after a TIA (Transient Ischaemic Attack)

After one month, you may return to driving, provided you have not had another TIA.

If you have had more than one TIA over a short period of time, you will require three months free of further events before driving.

You must inform your insurance company that you have had a TIA. If you do not inform your company, you may find that your insurance is invalid.

LGV (Large Goods Vehicle) or PCV (Passenger Carrying Vehicle) holders:

If you hold a LGV or PCV licence, **you must tell DVLA immediately** if you have had a TIA or a stroke. You are not allowed to drive this type of vehicle for one year. You may be able to return to driving these vehicles after this time, depending on your recovery and on the outcome of medical reports and tests.

Useful contacts:

DVLA

www.direct.gov.uk/driverhealth

0300 790 6806

DVLA Drivers' Medical Group (DMDG)

DVLA

Swansea

SA99 1DG

01792 782336

Regional Driving Assessment Centre, (RDAC)

Patricks Farm

Meriden

B92 0LT

03003002240

info@rdac.co.uk

www.rdac.co.uk

Stroke Association

Stroke Helpline: 0303 3033 100

Email: helpline@stroke.org.uk

Website: www.stroke.org.uk

Patient Information

If you are not sure if any of this advice applies to you, please speak to your GP.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please ask and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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