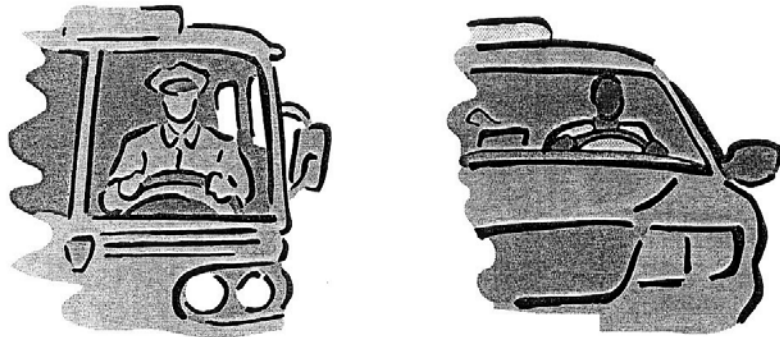


Intravenous Drugs

The DVLA will never allow anyone on intravenous drugs to hold a driving licence, even if these are prescribed and you never use any other drug and you are completely compliant with treatment.

Vocational Licences

Vocational licences i.e. those required to drive public vehicles or heavy goods vehicles, will not be granted where there is a history of alcohol dependency within the past three years, and would not normally be issued for individuals who are dependent on drugs.



Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Specialist Drug & Alcohol Service: Risk Assessment Working Party

Ratified by the SDAS Clinical Governance Committee: 11th February 2003

Avon and Wiltshire 
Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Specialist Drug & Alcohol Services

YOU & DRIVING



Information for clients regarding fitness to drive

YOU & DRIVING

Driving is a complex task, and requires the driver to be fully alert. Any substances that have an influence on brain function or on mental processes involved in driving will clearly affect driving performance. All drugs of addiction, including alcohol, can seriously affect your ability to drive safely.



According to the Road Traffic Act, there are certain medical conditions where an individual is required by law to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), for example, epilepsy and diabetes are included. Drug or alcohol dependence or misuse is also considered a medical condition which may affect fitness to drive, and as such requires notification to the DVLA. **This applies even if you do not drink-drive, or drive under the influence of drugs.**

Fitness to Drive

It is your legal responsibility to inform the DVLA of your drug/alcohol dependence or misuse, and the DVLA will then make a decision on your fitness to drive. They may ask for reports from your GP or the Specialist Drug and/or Alcohol Service.

Insurance

You also need to inform your insurance company. Driving whilst unfit through taking prescribed or illicit drugs of addiction will invalidate your insurance, and is an offence which may lead to prosecution.

Drugs of Addiction

The persistent use or dependence on any drug of addiction, including prescribed drugs, will normally lead the DVLA to revoke or decline to issue a driving licence (unless certain strict conditions, as described below, are met).

Prescribed Drugs

The use of prescribed opiate or other addictive medications e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, dihydrocodeine ('DF118s), benzodiazepines ('valium', 'temazepam', 'librium' 'nitrazepam') etc. is only permitted if:

- You are fully compliant with treatment.
- Your doctor confirms that you are not sedated or otherwise affected by the medication.
- You do not use any illicit drugs of any type at all (e.g. a single use of cannabis will result in immediate withdrawal of the licence).
- You undergo regular reviews from a DVLA doctor.