

Seizures and driving regulations

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A patient's guide



.... caring for you 

If you have had a seizure, there are specific regulations about holding a driving licence. For people who drive, one immediate effect of having a seizure is that they have to stop driving until further notice.

Not all episodes of loss of consciousness are due to seizures, however, and different regulations apply to these conditions. Irrespective of this however you must stop driving until a proper diagnosis has been made, ideally by a neurologist.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is the organisation that licenses cars and drivers for driving on public roads in Great Britain. If you have a driving licence, by law it is your duty to tell the DVLA about any medical condition which may affect your ability to drive, including epilepsy.

This is a condition of holding a driving licence. If you have a driving licence, and have a seizure of any kind, the DVLA regulations say that you must stop driving. You are responsible for telling the DVLA and returning your licence to them.

If you drive after having a seizure:

- Your licence will not be valid.
- You will be driving illegally - driving without a valid licence is a criminal offence.
- Your car insurance will not be valid. You may have to pay any costs of a claim from another person

The ban on driving is not permanent provided certain requirements are met. For more information see the DVLA website (see below).

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/MedicalRulesForDrivers/MedicalA-Z/DG_185758

For more information concerning driving and seizures see:

<http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/>

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical.aspx>