



DVLA driving regulations: brain and spinal cord tumours

Your tumour diagnosis is:

Type:

WHO (World Health Organisation) Grade:

Introduction

You have been given this information because you have been diagnosed with a brain or spinal cord tumour which may affect your ability to retain your driving licence. This leaflet explains the rules on driving for people diagnosed with different types of brain or spinal tumour. **However, this is the guidance only and you must contact the DVLA or refer to their website.**

These regulations only apply to **Group 1** driving entitlements (that is, car and motorcycle licences), and do not apply to **Group 2** entitlements (passenger carrying vehicles or large goods vehicle licences). 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 and are not at the discretion of your doctor. If you are not fit to drive for medical reasons, the DVLA will take your licence from you (revoke) and will tell you when you can re-apply for your licence. They will issue you with a new licence after the appropriate period, provided you are declared fit to drive again by your doctor. You do not have to re-take your driving test. However, the DVLA will make the final decision about whether to return your licence and will contact your consultant for further information about your fitness to drive.

Informing the DVLA about a medical condition

Once you have been diagnosed with a brain or spinal tumour it is your responsibility to contact and 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.

Failure to notify the DVLA is a criminal offence and may result in a fine of up to £1000.

Step by step guide

Once you have been diagnosed with a brain or spinal cord tumour **you must by law** inform the DVLA.

- When you inform the DVLA of your diagnosis, it is advisable to surrender your licence and send it to them at the same time. If you do not do this, the DVLA may revoke your licence. Gaining their permission to drive again is much lengthier and complex if your licence has been revoked.
- Your letter to the DVLA should include:
 - your **full** name
 - your date of birth
 - your driver's number
 - the name and type of tumour you have, including the date of diagnosis (the more information about this you are able to provide them with the better, so you could include how it was diagnosed or what happened to you)
 - any treatment and surgery you have had including relevant dates. Remember to tell the DVLA about all further treatments or medical decisions such as the possibility of needing chemotherapy or radiotherapy. If you are in doubt if this applies to you or not, please ask your consultant, specialist nurse or specialist radiographer.
 - the name and contact details of your GP and your oncology consultant.
- If you supply the DVLA with enough information (as detailed above) they will inform you how long it will be before you can apply to drive again. If they need more information, they will ask your permission to contact your doctor.
- If you **surrender** 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. The DVLA will write to you. However, the DVLA will check that you fulfil the criteria for return of your licence. They will decide this based on information supplied by your doctor.
- 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 which can take a long time as mentioned above.

Driving and tumour types

Most people will lose their licence for a period of time following the diagnosis of a brain or spinal cord tumour. The length of time you cannot drive for will depend on the type, grade and location of the tumour. Additionally, if you have or have ever had fits (seizures), it must be at least 12 months since your last seizure.

If you would like to discuss this further, for example about the type and grading of your tumour, please ask your consultant, specialist nurse or specialist radiographer for advice.

DVLA guidelines for Group 1 - Car and motorcycle

Pituitary tumour

<p>Treated by craniotomy</p>	<p>▲ Should not drive and must notify the DVLA.</p> <p>Driving may resume after 6 months provided there is no visual field defect.</p> <p>If there is visual field loss, refer to the DVLA guidelines about visual disorders or contact the DVLA directly.</p>
<p>No need for treatment or treated by transsphenoidal surgery or therapy such as drugs or radiotherapy</p>	<p>▲ Should not drive but need not notify the DVLA.</p> <p>Driving may resume on recovery provided there is no debarring visual field defect.</p>

Benign brain tumours

Benign supraentorial tumour (WHO grade I meningioma, for example)	
<p>Treated by craniotomy</p>	<p>● Must not drive but need not notify the DVLA.</p> <p>Driving may resume after 6 months provided there is no visual field defect.</p> <p>The epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history. Refer to the DVLA guidelines or contact the DVLA directly.</p>
<p>Treated by stereotactic radiosurgery</p>	<p>▲ Should not drive unless, in the view of an appropriate healthcare professional, it is safe to do so. Need not notify the DVLA.</p> <p>Driving may resume after 1 month provided there is no debarring residual impairment likely to affect safe driving.</p> <p>The epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history. Refer to the DVLA guidelines or contact the DVLA directly.</p>
<p>Treated by fractionated radiotherapy</p>	<p>▲ Should not drive unless, in the view of an appropriate healthcare professional, it is safe to do so. Need not notify the DVLA.</p> <p>Driving may resume on completion of treatment provided there is no debarring residual impairment likely to affect safe driving.</p> <p>The epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history. Refer to the DVLA guidelines or contact the DVLA directly.</p>

Key: ● Must not drive ▲ Should not drive ■ May drive

WHO grade II meningiomas treated with craniotomy and/or radiosurgery and/or radiotherapy

- **Must not drive and must notify the DVLA.**

Driving may resume 1 year after completion of treatment.

The epilepsy regulations apply if there is relevant seizure history. Refer to the DVLA guidelines or contact the DVLA directly.

Asymptomatic incidental meningiomas not needing treatment

- **May drive and need not notify the DVLA.**

Malignant brain tumours

- **Including metastatic deposits and pineal tumours**

The standards will apply to first occurrence, recurrence and progression

Supraentorial

WHO grade I or II glioma

- **Must not drive and must notify the DVLA.**

Driving may resume 1 year after completion of primary treatment.

Where there is imaging evidence of tumour recurrence or progression licensing may be considered if:

- there has been a 1 year seizure free period
- there is no clinical disease progression.

These will apply whether or not chemotherapy has been given.

A 1 year license will usually be considered.

WHO grade III meningioma

- **Must not drive and must notify the DVLA.**

Driving may resume 2 years after completion of primary treatment.

WHO grade III or IV gliomas, multiple metastatic deposits or primary CNS lymphoma

- **Must not drive and must notify the DVLA.**

Driving may resume at least 2 years after completion of primary treatment.

Solitary metastatic deposit

- **Must not drive and must notify the DVLA.**

Relicensing may be considered 1 year after completion of the primary treatment if there was complete excision, and provided there is not recurrence or evidence of metastasis.

Infraentorial	
WHO grade I or II glioma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Driving may resume on recovery.
WHO grade II, III or IV glioma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Driving may resume 1 year (grade II) or 2 years (grades III and IV) after the completion of primary treatment.
Medulloblastoma or low-grade ependymoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Relicensing may be considered 1 year after completion of the primary treatment if there was complete excision, and provided there is no recurrence.
High-grade ependymoma, other primary malignant brain tumour or primary CNS lymphoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Relicensing may be considered normally only after 2 years from completion of the primary treatment.
Brain metastases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Relicensing may be considered 1 year after completion of the primary treatment if the patient is otherwise well.
Malignant intracranial tumour in childhood: survival without recurrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ May apply to drive (or continue to drive) but must notify the DVLA. A 'till 70 licence' is normally granted or maintained.
Incidental, asymptomatic low-grade glioma on imaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. There will be an individual assessment for licensing and any licence will initially be under regular, usually annual, review.
Benign infraentorial tumours For example, meningioma treated with craniotomy with or without radiotherapy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must not drive but need not notify the DVLA. Driving may resume on recovery from treatment.

Acoustic neuroma/schwannoma

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ May drive and need not notify the DVLA unless there is sudden and disabling giddiness.
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Brain biopsy

- Showing undetermined histology

Treated by craniotomy and/or endoscopically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Must not drive and must notify the DVLA. Relicensing may be considered after 6 months if there is no debarring residual impairment likely to affect safe driving.
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Epilepsy regulations

- Any person having had an epilepsy attack (seizure or fit) whilst **awake** must refrain from driving for at least **one year** from the date of the attack before a licence can be issued.
- If you have a fit while **asleep** and have not previously had a sleeping fit then you will also have to stop driving for **one year**. If you continue to have seizures but only while asleep, then after three years you may be licensed providing no attacks have occurred whilst awake. 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 by 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. For further advice or information contact the DVLA – contact details on page 8.

What happens when these time periods have elapsed?

- You need to contact the DVLA 2 months before the end of the restricted time period.
- The DVLA will then write to your doctor for an updated medical report.
- The DVLA will then make a decision based on this report and will contact you.

Further information

The DVLA Drivers Medical Group, DVLA, Swansea SA99 1TU

Telephone: **0300 790 6806** (for medical enquiries and appeals):
Monday to Friday 08:00am to 17:30pm
Saturday 08:00am to 13:00pm

Fax: **0845 850 0095**

Internet: **www.dvla.gov.uk**
Email: **eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk**

DVLA helpline - enquiries about driving licences
Telephone: **0300 790 6801**

Text phone & Minicom users – enquiries about driving licences
Telephone: **0300 123 1278**

Opening hours

Normally open from 8:00am to 7:00pm hours Monday to Friday
Saturday 08:00am to 2:00pm

For general DVLA information visit:
www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical.aspx

Useful contacts

Consultant

Dr Rao
Dr McBain
Dr Tran
Dr Whitfield
Dr Colaco

Secretary number

0161 446 3362
0161 918 7008
0161 918 7197
0161 918 7197
0161 918 7197

The Christie Neuro oncology nurse specialist 0161 446 8441
Neuro oncology specialist radiographer 0161 446 8395
Salford Royal oncology nurse specialists 0161 206 0613 / 2073

The Christie Hotline 0161 446 3658

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

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The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
Wilmslow Road
Withington
Manchester M20 4BX
Tel: 0161 446 3000
www.christie.nhs.uk
The Christie Patient Information Service
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