

Radiotherapy department

DVLA driving regulations: primary 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 provides guidance on what you need to do next..

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 time 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 Gaining their permission to drive again is much lengthier and complex if your licence has been revoked.
- You need to visit the DVLA website and complete the relevant form. The address to return it and your licence and the form. www.gov.uk/giving-up-your-driving-licence
- The DVLA 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 8 weeks 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 fit (seizure).

If you would like to discuss this further, for example the type and grading of your tumour, or you require assistance obtaining the relevant form, please ask a member of your treating team.

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.

What happens when these time periods have elapsed?

- You need to contact the DVLA 8 weeks 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

Brains Trust - brainstrust.org.uk

Brain Tumour Charity - www.thebraintumourcharity.org

Brain Tumour Support - www.braintumoursupport.co.uk

Epilepsy - www.epilepsy.org.uk

Useful contacts:

• Neuro-specialist nurses

For general advice and support.

Sarah Cundliffe and Alison Gilston-Hope – **0161 206 0613 or 2073** (Salford Royal)

Liz Molloy – **0161 446 8441** (The Christie in Withington)

• Specialist radiographer

Charlotte Smith and Amy Davies – **0161 446 8395**

You can contact Charlotte or Amy for queries before, during or immediately after you have completed radiotherapy.

• Specialist AHPs

Sara Robson and Julie Emerson – **0161 918 7400**

Please contact Julie or Sara for queries relating to rehabilitation, mobility, speech and daily activities.

- **For queries about radiotherapy appointments**

The Christie in Withington radiotherapy department - **0161 446 3485**

The Christie in Withington mould room - **0161 446 3525**

The Christie at Salford - **0161 918 7800**

- **For urgent queries out-of-hours**

The Christie Hotline - **0161 446 3658**

- **Contacts via your consultant's secretary**

Dr C McBain - **0161 918 7008**

Dr R Colaco - **0161 918 7197**

Dr G Borst - **0161 446 3362**

Dr D Milanovic - **0161 446 3362**

Dr G Whitfield and Dr S Kennedy - **0161 918 7197**

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.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week