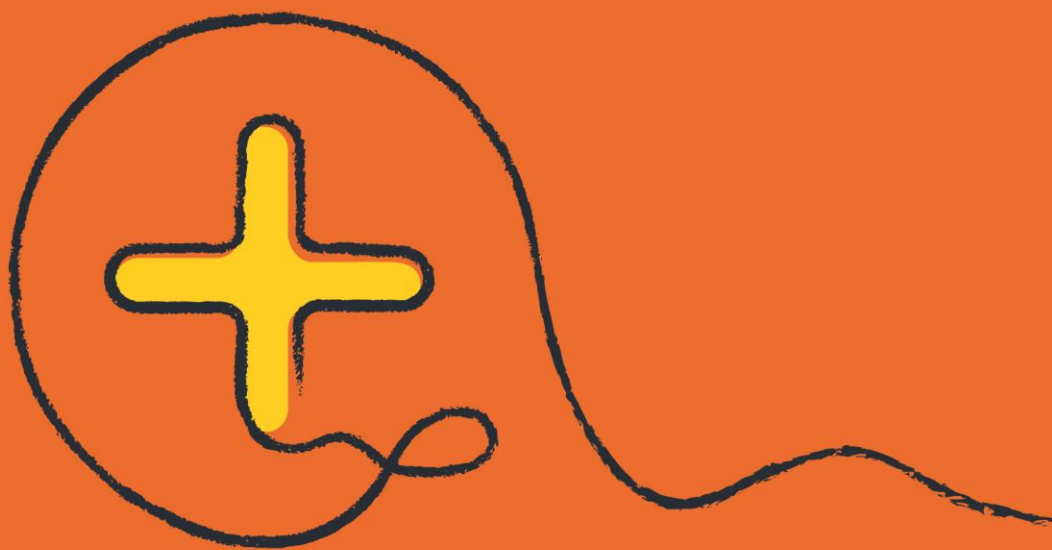


Your medicines and driving



Content

Information on how certain medicines might affect driving ability



You may have noticed that the label on your medication states
"This medicine may make you sleepy. If this happens, do not drive or use tools or machines. Do not drink alcohol."

If you are someone who drives, you may be wondering if it is safe for you to drive. The information in this leaflet will help you to decide.

How painkillers or sedative medication affect people

Some medications can cause drowsiness as part of their intended effect or as a side effect. The degree of drowsiness may vary between individuals and different drugs, as well as the impact on your ability to make decisions or react to sudden events. This may be worse if you take several medicines that can cause drowsiness or if you drink alcohol. Common medicines which have this effect are treatments for pain, muscle spasm, anxiety, depression, epilepsy and antihistamines for allergies.

Examples include opioid painkillers:

Oramorph
MST
Oxynorm
Fentanyl
Oxycontin
Buprenorphine
Methadone

Other drugs including

Diazepam
Lorazepam
Clonazepam
Temazepam
Gabapentin
Pregabalin
Amitryptiline



Advice about driving whilst taking medication with sedative effects

When you first start your medicine you may feel drowsy. In most people this side effect only lasts for a few days. When you no longer feel drowsy you should be able to drive again. When you first start driving again it would be sensible to make your first trip short, on roads you are familiar with and at a time when the traffic is not busy. If your dose of medication is increased you may again feel drowsy. You must wait until his effect has passed before driving.

Do not drive soon after taking an additional dose of strong painkiller or medicine for anxiety if this has made you drowsy. It is advisable to wait for a period until you feel fit to drive.

If you are taking any of these medicines, it is advisable to carry information which confirms that you need them for your medical condition (e.g. a copy of your medicines information card or repeat prescription form). You may asked about this if you are stopped by the police.

You must not drive after drinking alcohol or taking strong drugs which have not been prescribed or recommended by your doctor, e.g. cannabis.

Drivers Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

You do not have to inform the DVLA that you are starting morphine or another strong painkiller however there may be other information about your illness that the DVLA needs to know. Your doctors or the DVLA can advise you about this. If you have a driving licence you must tell the DVLA if your medical condition or disability has got worse since you first got your licence, you develop a new medical condition or disability or you have a 'notifiable' medical condition. Notifiable medical conditions include epilepsy, strokes and other neurological conditions, mental health problems, physical disabilities and visual impairment.

If it would be helpful to have this leaflet in another format or language please call the main hospice switchboard on 01293 447333

How to contact the DVLA

Telephone numbers:

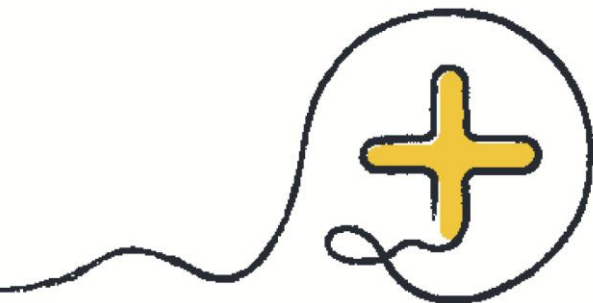
Drivers enquiries: **0300 7906801**

Medical enquiries: **0300 790 6806**

Please have your driving licence number available.

Website: www.gov.uk

Address: Drivers Medical Group. DVLA. Swansea. SA99 1TU



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