

# Driving and Dementia Pack

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## Purpose of this pack

The purpose of this pack is to define a clear process for clinicians and healthcare professionals when addressing the question of continuing to drive with a patient who has received a diagnosis of dementia.

## What the pack contains

This pack contains:

- Introduction to the pack
- Driving and Dementia Pathway
- Patient information sheet – ‘Memory Problems and Driving’
- North East Drive Mobility Information Leaflet
- Template letter for patient to send to the DVLA and copy of DVLA Form CG1 (available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk))
- Clinician guidance sheet with sample questions to guide discussion
- DVLA guidance for drivers with medical conditions (available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring))
- DVLA Form ‘Declaration of Surrender for Medical Reasons’ (available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk))

## If you have urgent concerns about a patient's ability to drive

If you have urgent concerns about a patient's ability to continue driving:

- Advise them immediately to stop driving.
- If the patient refuses to cease driving inform them of your duty of care to inform the DVLA and/or police.

## What should I do then?

- If they wish to continue driving advise the patient to contact their local Mobility Centre for a driving assessment and advise them not to drive until they have had their assessment.
- If they wish to cease driving advise the patient to notify the DVLA that they wish to surrender their driving licence, and to return their licence to the DVLA. DVLA Form 'Declaration of Surrender for Medical Reasons' is included in this pack and is available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)).

## What is the role of neuropsychological testing in assessing someone's fitness to drive?

Neuropsychological results can provide evidence in highlighting where there may be areas of concern to explore further. Particular domains which might relate to driving ability include:

- Visuospatial functioning
- Executive functioning

- Praxis

Difficulties in these areas may indicate that further 'on road' driving assessment is required.

Is there a neuropsychological cut-off score which I can use to decide if someone can keep driving?

Evidence suggests that driving is an 'overlearned' process and therefore neuropsychological performance does not directly translate to driving ability. Unfortunately, there is no 'cut off score' to determine the ability of a patient to keep driving.

What is the role of the mobility centre?

Mobility centres can offer driving assessments. It is important to note that these assessments are holistic in nature (utilising clinical and driving skills) and consider the cognitive aspects associated with the task of driving as well as provide a standardised 'on road' drive as part of the assessment process. Therefore outcomes from this assessment can be very valuable in deciding whether someone is safe to drive or not.

Who can refer to a mobility centre?

- Clinicians can refer patients on their behalf to the mobility centre although patients can directly contact the mobility centre if they want a driving assessment.
- If the DVLA consider a driving assessment is required as part of their medical enquiries, they will refer the patient for a driving

assessment. The DVLA will confirm to the patient if they have cover to drive, under section 88 of the Road Traffic Act, or a Provisional Disability Assessment Licence (PDAL) may be granted by the DVLA for the duration of the assessment.

### What do I do if a patient rides a motorcycle?

If the Patient rides a motorcycle and requires a driving assessment, only mobility centres in Birmingham and East Anglia provide this service.

### Who can be the contact for the patient for the DVLA?

Either the clinician or relative can be the liaison or contact for the patient, but the DVLA must have written permission from the patient, in the form of a letter.

### What about patients who hold a vocational licence to drive a heavy goods vehicle or bus?

If a patient is given a diagnosis of dementia, and holds a vocational licence (e.g. bus, lorry) this is immediately revoked by the DVLA.

## What happens if a patient wants to re-apply for a licence after it has been revoked or surrendered?

If a licence is revoked or surrendered, and a patient wishes to re-apply, they must start the process from the beginning and complete the form D1 (available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)).

### Useful resources:

For further information about locations and services of mobility centres around the country:

Forum of Mobility Centres UK

Telephone: 0800 559 3636

[www.mobility-centres.org.uk](http://www.mobility-centres.org.uk)

A-Z of medical conditions and a guide to reporting procedures, along with forms required:

[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/MedicalRulesForDrivers/MedicalA-Z/index.htm>

DVLA – at a glance document:

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

DVLA – medical adviser's helpline:

01792 782337

## Further Information:

### **DVLA**

Swansea

SA99 1DL

[www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk)

### **North East Drive Mobility**

Walkergate Park

Centre for Neuro Rehabilitation & Neuro Psychiatry

Benfield Road

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE6 4QD

Tel: 0191 2875090

Email: [northeast.drivemobility@ntw.nhs.uk](mailto:northeast.drivemobility@ntw.nhs.uk)

Website: [www.ntw.nhs.uk/mobility](http://www.ntw.nhs.uk/mobility)

### **Alzheimer's Society**

Devon House

58 St Katharine's Way

London

E1W 1JX

Helpline: 0845 300 0336 (Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm)

[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)