

# Alcohol Liaison Service DVLA Guidance

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**Hospital Alcohol Liaison Service**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

## What are your responsibilities?

- You must tell the DVLA if you misuse alcohol or have experienced an alcohol-related medical issue.
- This means if you are alcohol dependent, persistently misuse alcohol, have experienced an alcohol related seizure, or have a diagnosis of an alcohol related disorder, you **must stop driving** until the DVLA tells you otherwise; if you don't you are breaking the law.
- Initially you may find you have some symptoms associated with stopping drinking.

## How does the DVLA define alcohol misuse?

There are two types of alcohol misuse identified by the DVLA.

**Dependency** which includes:

- a strong desire to take alcohol
- difficulties in controlling your drinking
- persistence in drinking despite experiencing harmful consequences
- increased tolerance to the effects of alcohol
- withdrawal symptoms

### **Persistent use**

- This is recurrent episodes of excessive drinking which cause disturbances of behaviour. There may also be a related disease or other consequences which are likely to cause harm now or in the future.

## Will my GP be informed about my admission into hospital?

Your GP will receive a letter from the hospital which will include any advice given to you about driving.

## **DVLA guidance**

### **What will happen if I still drive?**

If you continue to drive against advice, the DVLA will be informed. You can be fined up to £1000 if you do not inform them yourself.

### **How do I inform the DVLA?**

The form is available online - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-of-voluntary-surrender](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-of-voluntary-surrender)

Or you can E-mail - [eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk)

Or phone - 0870 600 0301 (Mon to Fri 8.00am to 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.00pm)

### **How long will I be unable to drive my car?**

- Persistent alcohol use - usually a six month period free from alcohol problems.
- Alcohol dependency - usually a one year period free from alcohol problems.
- Fits (alcohol related seizures) - your licence will normally be stopped for one year after your last fit but will also depend on you being free from alcohol problems.
- Alcohol related disorder - until there is significant recovery and you can satisfy all medical standards.
- If your licence has a group 2 entitlement (lorry or bus) there are longer time periods before your licence is reinstated due to the greater level of risk.

## **Finding out more**

- Alcohol Concern: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)
- Alcohol Learning Centre: [www.alcohollearningcentre.org.uk](http://www.alcohollearningcentre.org.uk)
- Drinkaware: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)
- Drinkaware for teenagers: [www.truthaboutbooze.com](http://www.truthaboutbooze.com)
- Down your drink: [www.downyourdrink.org.uk](http://www.downyourdrink.org.uk)
- NHS: [www.drinking.nhs.uk](http://www.drinking.nhs.uk)
- Young people: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)
- DVLA - drink driving penalties <https://www.gov.uk/drink-driving-penalties>

## **Need more support?**

**Further support can be obtained both in hospital and your local community.**

### **Hospital Alcohol Liaison Nurse Service (Royal Lancaster Infirmary)**

01524 512282

### **Inspire (North Lancashire Alcohol Community Service)**

Morecambe: 01524 834210

Lancaster: 01524 388493

### **Red Rose Recovery (North Lancashire Community Service)**

01772 884745

### **Unity (Cumbria Alcohol Community Service)**

01539 742780

### **N.Y Horizons (North Yorkshire Alcohol Community Service)**

01723 330730

### **AA (National)**

0845 7697555

## Leaflet Details

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## **Other formats**

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

## **Travelling to our hospitals**

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website:  
<http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

## **Useful Contact Details**

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

## **Your Information**

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

## **Evidence**

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

## **Feedback**

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

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