

# **Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) Service - Driving**

**UK driving regulations for people with brain AVMs**

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## **Who is this leaflet for?**

This leaflet is for adults with a brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM) who hold a driving licence. Some brain AVMs are associated with aneurysms, so if the aneurysm caused a problem, you should also refer to guidance about aneurysms. This leaflet reflects guidance for medical professionals in March 2018's version of 'Assessing Fitness To Drive' published by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). There's a legal duty to contact the DVLA if your AVM might affect driving.



## What type of licence do you hold?

The medical standards refer to Group 1 and Group 2 licence holders. **Group 1** includes cars and motorcycles. **Group 2** includes large lorries and buses.

### Group 2 licences:

If you hold a group 2 licence, in all cases you must not drive and you must notify the DVLA, who will let you know how long your licence is revoked for, and whether relicensing is possible.

### Group 1 licences:

#### Is the AVM infratentorial or supratentorial?

The DVLA's guidance varies according to whether your AVM is in the brainstem or cerebellum ('infratentorial') or elsewhere ('supratentorial'). Rules for supratentorial AVMs are more restrictive because AVMs in this area might cause epileptic seizures.

#### If your AVM has bled:

Drivers with a bleed from a **supratentorial** AVM must not drive. If the AVM is treated with surgery, they must notify the DVLA. If they have embolisation, radiosurgery or they are not treated, driving may resume after one month. Drivers with a bleed from an **infratentorial** AVM may drive and does not need to notify the DVLA. In all cases driving may only begin after you have recovered.

#### Incidental AVMs

Incidental means your AVM hasn't caused symptoms. Drivers with incidental **supratentorial** AVM may drive if the AVM isn't treated, but if the AVM is treated the guidance above for AVMs that have bled applies. Drivers with incidental **infratentorial** AVM may drive.

## If your AVM caused epileptic seizure(s):



Please refer to [www.gov.uk/epilepsy-and-driving](http://www.gov.uk/epilepsy-and-driving)

If one or more epileptic seizure(s) happened at the same time as a brain haemorrhage from an AVM, the epilepsy regulations also apply. Exceptions may be made if the seizure occurred only within 24 hours of a bleed from an AVM.

If you would like further information, the guidance for medical professionals is available at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/neurological-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/neurological-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive)



## The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

The DVLA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport (DfT). Its main purposes are to collect road tax and facilitate road safety and general law enforcement.

You have a legal duty to tell the DVLA about your medical condition. We are obliged to tell you about this responsibility. Failing to notify the DVLA is a criminal offence and is punishable by a fine. More information can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-licensing-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-licensing-agency)



or:

### Drivers' Medical Enquiries

#### DVLA

Swansea

SA99 1TU

Tel: 0300 790 6806

**The Edinburgh AVM clinic will not notify the DVLA about your medical condition(s) unless you have given your consent.**

## **AVM Clinic Contact**

Clinical Nurse Specialist  
DCN Imaging  
RHCYP/DCN  
Bioquater  
Little France  
Edinburgh  
EH16 4 TJ

Tel: **0131 312 0863**

## **Translation Services**

This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.