

Driving advice following a transient loss of consciousness

You have been given this leaflet because you have had an episode of altered consciousness (such as a ‘blackout’ or fainting) which may impact whether you are allowed to drive. **It is important you follow this advice to avoid harming yourself or others.**

The advice on this leaflet is for group 1 (car and motorcycle) licence. If you have a group 2 (bus and lorry) licence different rules will apply.

If you have any concerns or doubts about the advice you have been given, contact the DVLA directly. Visit www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla or scan the QR code.



(Your assessing doctor should tick ONE box to indicate most likely/presumed diagnosis)

1. Orthostatic Hypotension (drop in blood pressure when standing) or POTS (increased heart when standing)

You do not need to inform the DVLA and can continue to drive.

2. Reflex syncope (vasovagal syncope or “faint”) – with reliable prodrome (warning signs/symptoms)

If it has **not** occurred while driving, you may continue to drive and do not need to inform the DVLA.

Single episode: If syncope (fainting episode) has occurred while driving, then **you must not drive and do not need to notify DVLA.** You may resume driving in one month if there are no further episodes of syncope.

Multiple episodes (more than 1 in 24 months): If syncope (fainting episode) has occurred while driving, **you must not drive and must notify DVLA.** Driving may resume **3 months** following the most recent episode of syncope.

3. Reflex syncope (vasovagal syncope or “faint”) – without reliable prodrome (warning signs/symptoms)

• Single episode:

You must not drive and must notify DVLA. If syncope was associated with an avoidable provocation (a trigger which could be avoided in future) and did not occur while driving, **driving may resume after the recovery from the episode of syncope.**

You must not drive and must notify DVLA. If syncope was not associated with an avoidable provocation (a trigger which could be avoided in future) or it occurred while driving, **driving may resume 3 months following the episode of syncope.**

• Multiple fainting episodes (2 or more in 24 months)

You must not drive and must notify DVLA. If syncope is associated with an avoidable provocation (a trigger which could be avoided in future) and did not occur while driving, **driving may resume 3 months following the most recent episode of syncope.**

You must not drive and must notify DVLA. If syncope is not associated with an avoidable provocation (a trigger which could be avoided in future) or they occurred while driving, **driving may resume 6 months following the most recent episode of syncope.**

4. Unexplained loss of consciousness (without seizure markers)

Single episode: **You must not drive and must notify DVLA.** Driving may resume **6 months** after the episode of unexplained loss of consciousness.

Multiple episodes (2 or more in 24 months): **You must not drive and must notify DVLA.** Your licence will be **revoked for 12 months** after most recent episode of unexplained loss of consciousness.

5. Cough Syncope (sudden loss of consciousness caused by a violent cough)

You must not drive and must notify DVLA. **Must not drive for 6 months** following a single episode and for **12 months** following multiple episodes over 5 years. If more than one episode of cough syncope occurs within a 24-hour period, this will be counted as a single event. However, if the episodes of cough syncope are more than 24 hours apart, these are considered as multiple episodes.