



DRIVING AND PAIN

This information sheet is designed to provide you more details regarding driving and chronic pain. It will answer some of the queries you may have regarding driving and the medications you taking or treatments that you may be planning to undergo.

WHAT SYMPTOMS MAY MEAN THAT I CANNOT DRIVE SAFELY?

Do not drive if you experience symptoms that may impair your driving such as sleepiness, poor coordination, impaired or slow thinking, dizziness or visual problems. These symptoms can occur as side effects of medication, but be aware that pain itself can also affect sleep, concentration and impair physical function.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF MY DRIVING BEING IMPAIRED IN RELATION TO CHRONIC PAIN?

This includes the following circumstances that may increase the risk of your driving being impaired:

- When first starting a new pain medication
- When increasing or reducing the dose of pain medication
- If another prescribed medication is added that could also impair your driving
- If you take an over the counter medicine that could also impair your driving
- If you have a pain condition that could physically impair your driving
- Be aware that alcohol taken in combination with some pain medications can substantially increase the risk of accidents.

DO I NEED TO INFORM THE DVLA WHEN I START A NEW MEDICATION?

You do not need to routinely inform the DVLA when you start medications for pain. However, there may be other information about your illness that the DVLA needs to know. Your doctor or the DVLA can advise you about this.



DO I NEED TO INFORM MY MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COMPANY?

We would strongly advise you to inform your motor vehicle insurance company about your current state of health and what medication you are taking to ensure your motor insurance is valid.

THE 'DRUG DRIVING' LAW

If you have been prescribed one of the following medications you may be affected by this law: morphine or related drugs (such as codeine, tramadol or fentanyl), ketamine, clonazepam, diazepam, methadone, oxazepam, temazepam, lorazepam, flunitrazepam, amphetamine (e.g. dexamphetamine or selegiline), cannabinoids (e.g. sativex).

From 2015 there is a new offence of driving above a specified limit for these medications (like the current rules on alcohol and driving). If you are stopped and tested by the police you may test above the legal limit - depending on the dose you have been prescribed or the type of medicine.

If however you are taking these medications in line with advice from a Doctor or Pharmacist and your driving is not impaired you may use a 'medical defence'.

If the police are satisfied that a driver is taking the relevant medicine on the advice of a healthcare professional, and your driving is not impaired, you should not be prosecuted.

It may be useful for you to keep suitable evidence with you (such as a copy of your clinic letter and prescription) to show the police if you are ever stopped. However, if your doctor feels it is not safe for you to drive and you continue to do so, you will be breaking the law.

The following government website provides further information on drug driving law: www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law



PROCEDURES WE OFFER

LUMBAR EPIDURAL INJECTION
CAUDAL EPIDURAL INJECTION
LUMBAR FACET JOINT INJECTION
CERVICAL FACET JOINT INJECTION
THORACIC FACET JOINT INJECTION
DORSAL ROOT GANGLION BLOCK
NERVE ROOT BLOCK
LUMBAR FACET RADIOFREQUENCY
DENERVATION
CERVICAL FACET RADIOFREQUENCY
DENERVATION
TRIGGER POINT INJECTION
SACROILIAC JOINT INJECTION
COCCYX INJECTION
GANGLION IMPAR BLOCK
PIRIFORMIS INJECTION
INGUINAL NERVE BLOCK
PUDENDAL NERVE BLOCK
JOINT INJECTION
OCCIPITAL NERVE BLOCK
PULSED RADIOFREQUENCY
TREATMENT
INTERCOSTAL NERVE BLOCK
RECTUS SHEATH BLOCK
TROCHANTERIC BURSA INJECTION
ISCHIAL BURSA INJECTION
ILIO LUMBAR LIGAMENT INJECTION
QUADRATUS LUMBORUM INJECTION
ACHILLES TENDON INJECTION
PLANTAR FASCIA INJECTION
GENICULAR NERVE BLOCK & RF
NEUROTOMY OF KNEE JOINT
SUPRASCAPULAR NERVE BLOCK
BOTOX INJECTION
PLATELET RICH PLASMA THERAPY
TENNIS ELBOW INJECTION
GOLFER'S ELBOW INJECTION
SUPRASCAPULAR NERVE ABLATION
BOTOX FOR MIGRAINE
CERVICAL MEDIAL BRANCH BLOCKS
LUMBAR MEDIAL BRANCH BLOCKS
STELLATE GANGLION BLOCK
HIP JOINT COOLED
RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION
INGUINAL NERVE ABLATION
LATERAL FEMORAL CUTANEOUS
NERVE BLOCK
GREATER AURICULAR NERVE BLOCK
BOTOX FOR BACK PAIN

The above information is for general education only. Please ask specific questions to the doctor during your consultation.

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