



Driving with antiphospholipid syndrome

Many antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) patients are concerned about their safety to drive and whether they need to declare their condition to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

Antiphospholipid syndrome is not specifically covered by the DVLA, so we have listed here the possible conditions the DVLA recognises which can arise from having APS and what you need to do:

- Blood clots
- Cognitive problems
- Dizziness/giddiness
- Heart attack
- Heart valve problems
- Kidney problems
- Memory problems (severe)
- Seizures
- Stroke
- Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)

Please remember that the law requires you to tell the DVLA about any condition that may affect your ability to drive safely. If you are involved in an accident and it is found that your health condition was a contributing factor, you may be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000 and your insurance may not be valid.

Blood clots and driving

If you hold any type of vehicle licence, you must tell DVLA if you have a blood clot in the brain.

You do not have to tell DVLA if you have a blood clot in your lung (pulmonary embolism).

Cognitive problems and driving

If you hold any type of vehicle licence, you will need to tell the DVLA that you have cognitive problems. Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [CG1](#) and send it to DVLA.

Dizziness and driving

If you hold any type of vehicle licence, you will need to tell the DVLA if you suffer from dizziness that is sudden, disabling or recurrent. Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [DIZ1](#) (for car or motorcycle licence holders), or form [DIZ1V](#) (for bus, coach or lorry licence holders) and send it to the DVLA.

Heart attack and driving

Car or motorcycle licence holders do not need to tell DVLA if you've had a heart attack (myocardial infarction) or a heart, cardiac or coronary angioplasty.

However, you should stop driving for:

- 1 week if you had angioplasty, it was successful and you don't need any more surgery
- 4 weeks if you had angioplasty after a heart attack but it wasn't successful
- 4 weeks if you had a heart attack but didn't have angioplasty

Check with your doctor to find out when it's safe for you to start driving again.

Bus, coach or lorry licence holders must tell DVLA and stop driving for 6 weeks if you've had a heart attack (myocardial infarction) or a heart, cardiac or coronary angioplasty.

Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [VOCH1](#) and send it to DVLA.

You must take an assessment with your doctor or GP after 6 weeks to see if you meet the medical standard to start driving again. DVLA might arrange for you to have specific tests, depending on your condition.



Driving with antiphospholipid syndrome

Heart valve disease and driving

If you have a car or motorcycle licence, you will not need to tell the DVLA you have heart valve problems. The DVLA states you should stop driving for at least 1 month and only restart driving when your doctor tells you it's safe.

Anyone with a bus, coach or lorry licence must tell DVLA if you have heart valve disease or a replacement valve. Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [VOCH1](#) and send it to DVLA.

If you have valve surgery you must stop driving for at least 3 months and only restart driving when DVLA says you can.

Kidney problems and driving

You must tell DVLA if you have kidney problems, for bus, coach or lorry licence holders.

Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [K1V](#) and send it to DVLA.

Memory problems (severe) and driving

All licence holders must ask their doctor if they're not sure if their memory problems are severe.

Any licence holder with severe memory problems must visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [CG1](#) and send it to DVLA.

Seizures, fits or convulsions and driving

You must tell DVLA if you suffer from fits, seizures or convulsions.

Car or motorcycle licence holders must visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [FEP1](#) and send it to DVLA.

Bus, coach or lorry licence holders must visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [FEP1V](#) and send it to DVLA.

Stroke and driving

Car or motorcycle licence holders – you only need to tell DVLA if you're still having problems 1 month after the stroke.

Download the leaflet 'Car or motorcycle drivers who have had a stroke or transience ischaemic attack (TIA)' from the DVLA website, to find out if you need to tell DVLA about your stroke.

Bus, coach or lorry driver licence holders must tell DVLA if they've had a stroke.

Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [STR1V](#) and send it to DVLA.

Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIAs) and driving

Car or motorcycle licence holders must stop driving for at least 1 month after a transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or mini-stroke. You can only restart when your doctor tells you it is safe.

Bus, coach or lorry licence holders must tell DVLA if you had a transient ischaemic attack or mini-stroke. Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, download the form [STR1V](#) and send it to DVLA.

You must stop driving for at least one year after a TIA. You can restart only when your doctor tells you it is safe.