

Medical Standards for Licensing – Epilepsy

CONDITION	PRIVATE STANDARDS	COMMERCIAL STANDARDS
	<i>Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or bulk dangerous goods</i>	<i>Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or bulk dangerous goods vehicles</i>
Initial or Isolated Seizures (an isolated seizure is not necessarily synonymous with Epilepsy)	<p>A person who has had an initial or isolated seizure should be advised not to drive pending confirmation of diagnosis.</p> <p>Should the seizure be diagnosed as an isolated event, a non-driving period of 6 months should be recommended (shorter periods may be recommended by consultants experienced in the management of epilepsy).</p> <p>If epilepsy is confirmed or seizures recur the patient should be managed as for recently diagnosed epilepsy (see below) and should notify the Driver Licensing Authority.</p>	<p>The criteria for an unconditional licence are NOT met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has had a seizure due to any cause. <p>A conditional licence may be granted by the Driver Licensing Authority taking into account the opinion of a specialist in epilepsy and the size and condition of the vehicle, the duties to be performed and the hours to be worked (with conditions that may include limited and/or restricted use):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has had a single provoked seizure event; and - Provocative factors can be avoided reliably; and - Has been seizure free for one year; and - Takes no anti-epileptic medication; and <p>The EEG shows no epileptiform activity.</p>
Epilepsy – general requirements	<p>The criteria for an unconditional licence are NOT met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has epilepsy. <p>A conditional licence may be granted by the Driver Licensing Authority after seizure-free periods as shown below and subject to at least annual review (shorter periods may be recommended by consultants experienced in the management of epilepsy). The Driver Licensing Authority will take into account the opinion of the treating doctor/GP regarding the response to treatment and the driving requirements.</p> <p>Seizure free periods:</p> <p>Recently diagnosed epilepsy. Seizure-free period of 6 months from start of therapy (or 3 months on the recommendation of an experienced consultant).</p> <p>Chronic epilepsy (history of previously uncontrolled seizures). Generally a seizure free period of 2 years. A shorter period only on recommendation of an experienced consultant where there is clear evidence of seizure control (e.g. following adjustment and stabilisation of anti-epileptic drug treatment).</p>	<p>The criteria for an unconditional licence are NOT met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has epilepsy. <p>A conditional licence may be granted by the Driver Licensing Authority taking into account the opinion of a specialist in epilepsy (who may recommend variation of the seizure-free periods in exceptional circumstances), and the nature of the driving task, and subject to periodic review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has a past history of febrile seizures or of benign childhood epilepsy; and - Does not take anti-epileptic medication; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has a past history of a single seizure event; or of seizures occurring only under provocative circumstances that can be avoided reliably; and - Has been seizure free for five years; and - Takes no anti-epileptic medication; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity.

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Epilepsy – general requirements (continued)	<p>Seizures only in sleep. Seizure-free period of 12 months since the last seizure whilst awake.</p> <p>Epilepsy treated by surgery. A period of 12 months following surgery.</p>	<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has epilepsy and is taking anti-epileptic medication; and - Maintains at least annual review and compliance; and - Has been seizure free for five years; and - Has had no more than three seizures in the preceding ten years; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has epilepsy and has had surgical treatment; and - Maintains at least annual review; and - Has been seizure free for five years; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity. <p>OR</p> <p>Taking into account the size and condition of the vehicle, the duties to be performed and the hours to be worked (with conditions including limited and/or restricted use):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has epilepsy and is taking anti-epileptic medication; and - Maintains periodic review and compliance; and - Has been seizure free for five years; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity. <p>OR</p> <p>Taking into account the size and condition of the vehicle, the duties to be performed and the hours to be worked (with conditions including limited and/or restricted use):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the person has had a single provoked seizure event; and - Provocative factors can be avoided reliably; and - Has been seizure free for one year; and - Takes no anti-epileptic medication; and - The EEG shows no epileptiform activity.
Epilepsy – special situations	<p>Recurrent Seizure.</p> <p>If a person on a conditional licence, who has previously been well controlled, has a recurrence of a seizure due to an identifiable and non-recurring provocation such as illness, drug interaction or sleep</p>	<p>Recurrent Seizure.</p> <p>Recurrence of seizure in a commercial vehicle driver requires immediate suspension of driving and reporting to the Driver Licensing Authority by the driver.</p>

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<p>Epilepsy – special situations (continued)</p>	<p>On withdrawal, they should not drive for 1 month. If the cause is not identified the patient should not drive for 3 months.</p> <p>If a person on a conditional licence has a seizure causing a motor vehicle crash, they should not drive for at least 1 year and a consultant opinion is essential. The Driver Licensing Authority should be notified.</p> <p>Withdrawal of Anti-epileptic Medication</p> <p>The person should not drive for the full period of withdrawal and for 3 months thereafter. Where withdrawal is on the recommendation of a consultant experienced in the management of epilepsy on the basis that the risk of seizure-recurrence is low, driving need not be curtailed.</p> <p>Should there be a recurrence of seizures, the person should not drive for 1 month after resuming previously effective medication.</p> <p>If the patient refuses to resume medication they should not drive for 2 years (shorter periods may be recommended by consultants experienced in the management of epilepsy).</p> <p>Generally a person who is being considered for withdrawal of medication will be on a conditional licence and the Driver Licensing Authority need not be notified of a program of withdrawal of medication.</p>	<p>Withdrawal of Anti-epileptic Medication</p> <p>Withdrawal of medication is not compatible with continued driving of commercial vehicles.</p>