

Information for patients and carers

Alcohol and Driving

Tobacco and Alcohol Team



What are your responsibilities?

You must tell the DVLA if you misuse alcohol or have experienced an alcohol related medical issue. This means if you are alcohol dependent, persistently misuse alcohol, have experienced an alcohol related seizure, or have a diagnosis of an alcohol related disorder, you must stop driving until the DVLA tells you otherwise; if you don't you are breaking the law.

The DVLA can be informed via the online form available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/alcohol-problems-and-driving>

Up to date DVLA contact details can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla/y/driving-and-medical-issues>

Alcohol misuse

The DVLA offers the following definition to embrace all the variables within alcohol misuse:

“A state that causes, because of consumption of alcohol, disturbance of behaviour, related disease or other consequences likely to cause the patient, their family or society present or future harm and that may or may not be associated with dependence.”

Alcohol dependence

The DVLA offers the following definition:

“A cluster of behavioural, cognitive and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated alcohol use, including:

- A strong desire to take alcohol
- Difficulties in controlling its use
- Persistent use in spite of harmful consequences

- With evidence of increased tolerance and sometimes a physical withdrawal state - Indicators may include any history of withdrawal symptoms, tolerance, detoxification or alcohol-related seizures.

Alcohol-related disorders

The DVLA includes within this:

Hepatic cirrhosis with chronic encephalopathy
Cognitive impairment

Alcohol-related seizure

Seizures associated with alcohol use may be considered provoked in terms of licensing

What will happen if I still drive?

If you continue to drive against advice, then the DVLA will be informed, you could also be fined.

If you are involved in an accident and you have not informed the DVLA of your current medical condition, then you may be prosecuted, and your insurance may not be valid.

Will my GP be informed of my attendance to hospital?

Your GP will receive a discharge letter from the hospital which will include any advice given to you about alcohol and driving.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

Local alcohol services

Inspire Drug and Alcohol

Inspire services are designed to encourage individuals to find the strength and resources within themselves to achieve and sustain the life and behavioural changes they seek .

North and Central Lancashire

Telephone: 0808 1698673

www.inspirelancs.org.uk

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

If you seem to be having trouble with your drinking, or if your drinking has reached the point of where it worries you, you may be interested to know something about Alcoholics Anonymous and the AA programme of recovery from alcoholism.

National helpline is free to call on 0800 9177650

Or email help@aamail.org

Or visit their website at: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Find-a-Meeting>

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please telephone:

The Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team:**01772 716565**

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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