Adrienne article on DVLA (redone as previous one lost! ☹

**Reapplying for your driving licence and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)**

Hi everyone! Patients regularly ask our CRM team about reapplying for their driving licence after a ban. It can cause a lot of stress and confusion, so, here is some information about the process.

Reapplying can be difficult, so we advise you to be organised. When you informed the DVLA of your driving ban they will have asked you to surrender your licence.

Providing you have not had any dangerous heart rhythms such as ventricular fibrillation (VF) or ventricular tachycardia (VT) and no therapy has been delivered from your device (such as a shock or Anti Tachycardia Pacing), you can start the process of reapplying for your license at around 4 months. Go onto the DVLA website, here it is:

[www.gov.uk/reapply-driving-licence-medical-condition](http://www.gov.uk/reapply-driving-licence-medical-condition)

You will need to print and fill in form **DEFIB1** which is on the website. Complete the form and return it to the DVLA. If the form is not fully completed, there will be a delay. You must sign the declaration form which gives your consultant permission to provide information to the DVLA about you and your device at the end of the 6 months. Again, if you fail to do this, there will be delays in returning your licence.

The address for returning your form is here:

**Drivers Medical Group**  
DVLA  
Swansea  
SA99 1TU

The phone number for medical conditions is here:

**DVLA Medical Enquiries**  
Telephone: 0300 790 6806  
Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm  
Saturdays, 8am to 2pm

If you are unsure of any details on the form, you can contact the CRM nurses for advice. We may not be able to answer all your questions, but we can tell you who your consultant is, when your device was implanted and your medical conditions. You can also get information from your ID card and any letters from the hospital. However, it is your responsibility to complete the form. We are not able to do this for you.

At 6 months, your consultant will complete his/her part of the form and your device will be checked, either in clinic, or through your remote monitor. Providing everything is in order, the DVLA will return your licence. They say that you can resume driving while they investigate your case but check this with them. If possible, get something in writing or on email/text, in case you have an accident. This will act as proof of your permission to drive.

It is illegal to drive while on a driving ban. If you drive while on a ban, the DVLA can fine you up to £1,000 and may prosecute you, so it is very important that you don’t break the law. Your consultant’s secretary keeps a record of your application to drive. If there are delays in returning your licence, please contact the DVLA first. They should be able to tell you what is holding up your application. Then contact your consultant’s secretary, to check all the necessary paperwork has been completed from the hospital.

Well, I hope that helps! Be organised and apply at 4 months so there are as few delays as possible. Time passes quickly, and you will hopefully soon be back driving safely. Don’t forget to take your medicines! These help to reduce the risk of any dangerous heart rhythms occurring.

Stay regular! Adrienne