



MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S
HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND DIABETES
MELLITUS

Meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 12:00am

Present:

Panel Members:

Dr Mark Evans (Panel Chair)
Professor Michael Feher
Dr Daniel Flannagan
Dr David J C Flower
Dr Pratik Choudhary
Dr Peter Rogers (Lay Member)
Mr William Wright (Lay Member)

OBSERVERS:

Dr Ewan Hutchinson	Civil Aviation Authority
Dr Clive Beattie	Occupational Health Service Northern Ireland
Dr Graham Roberts	National Programme office for Traffic Medicine, Ireland
Dr Sally Bell	Chief Medical Officer, Maritime and Coastguard

EX-OFFICIO:

Dr Nick Jenkins	Senior Doctor, DVLA
Dr John Evans	DVLA Doctor
Dr Patricia Prasad	DVLA Doctor
Dr Darren Griffiths	DVLA Doctor
Miss Keya Nicholas	Driver Licensing Policy, DVLA
Miss Leanne Cutts	Driver Licensing Policy, DVLA
Mrs Julie Bartlett	Driver Licensing Policy, DVLA
Mrs Sharon Abbott	Operational Delivery & Support Drivers Medical, DVLA
Mrs Lorraine Jones	Panel Coordinator, Drivers Medical, DVLA
Mr Iain McTaggart	Drivers Service Management, DVLA
Mrs Siân Taylor	DVLA Note Taker

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from;

Mr Andrew Cude
Mr Andrew Jones
Ms Claire Johns
Dr Colin Graham

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Panel chair welcomed everyone and noted the apologies for absence.

3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

DVLA provided an update on the actions from the last meeting:

The panel agreed that the medical standards:

3a The standard for severe hypoglycaemia due to causes other than insulin treatment - This was agreed at the March 2020 Panel meeting when it was also agreed that the requirement to meet the standard would be triggered by an episode of severe hypoglycaemia. Panel advised that the standard should be incorporated into AFTD guidance.

3b Provoked seizures: The Senior Doctor provided an overview of the situation regarding provoked seizures and the time required off Group 2 driving. Currently provoked seizures require a period of 5 years off Group 2 driving although there has now been agreement across Panels that the 5 year period should apply only to those seizures of CNS origin. Agreement has been reached that it would be appropriate to reduce the time off Group 2 driving to 2 years for those provoked seizures of non-CNS origin. The Neurology Panel plan to discuss the requirements for those seizures of cardiovascular origin further. DVLA will not make any operational changes to the standard until full agreement has been reached.

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SECTION B: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Covid 19 recovery, DVLA Update

DVLA provided the panel with an update on the impact that COVID 19 has had on the Agency and medical licensing processes.

The Senior DVLA Doctor provided an update as to process changes that have been introduced to case working specifically relating to diabetes cases. These changes have been made as a consequence of drivers/applicants experiencing difficulties in arranging appointments with clinicians.

These changes include:

- i. Omitting third stage process in Group 2 drivers treated with insulin when the doctor completing the second stage form meets the legislative requirement of a hospital based Consultant specialising in diabetes.
- ii. Omitting the second stage process in the above cases when drivers/applicants are unable to secure an appointment with their own clinician

Feedback from panel was that they felt that omitting second stage process altogether might be a further option. DVLA advised that legislation allows for use of remote/video consultations between drivers, applicants and clinicians. Further work is under way to progress this means of consultation although it was noted that not all drivers or applicants would have access to the required technology. Panel discussed and agreed a clear statement to all assessors to agree a mutually acceptable digital platform with patients. Panel agreed DVLA were doing everything possible to streamline the existing process.

SECTION C: ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

5. Tests, horizon scanning, research and literature

DVLA reminded all panel members as part of the terms and conditions of the requirement to update panel about any information/tests/research that could impact on standards or existing processes.

The following publication was noted:

Lohan L et al. Hypoglycemia whilst driving in insulin-treated patients. Incidence and risk factors. Journal of Patient Safety: August 7, 2020 - Volume Publish Ahead of Print - Issue -
doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000764

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6. AOB

The use of insulin delivery systems in drivers, and the hypoglycaemic awareness/protection provided by the different types of such monitoring systems were noted as points for further discussion. DVLA advised that such changes may be dependent upon legislative change but would review the current position.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

Original draft minutes prepared by:

Sian Taylor

Note Taker

Date: 20th October 2020

Final minutes signed off by:

Dr M Evans

Panel Chair

Date: 2nd November 2020

THE DVLA WILL CONSIDER THE ADVICE PROVIDED BY THE PANEL AND NO CHANGES TO STANDARDS WILL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND ROAD SAFETY IS FULLY ASSESSED.

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