



MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT'S
HONORARY MEDICAL ADVISORY PANEL ON DRIVING AND DIABETES
MELLITUS
Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024

Present:

Panel Members:

Professor Pratik Choudhary (Chair)	Professor of Diabetes and Honorary Consultant
Professor Jeffrey W Stephens	Professor of Diabetes & Endocrinology
Professor David Russell-Jones	Professor of Diabetes & Endocrinology
Dr Karen Tait	Consultant Diabetologist
Dr Sufyan Hussain	Consultant Diabetes & Endocrinology
Dr Parijat De	Consultant Physician in Diabetes
Mr William Wright	Lay member
Dr Peter Rogers	Lay member

OBSERVERS:

Dr Ryan Anderton	Civil Aviation Authority
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EX-OFFICIO:

Dr Nick Jenkins	Senior DVLA Doctor
Dr John Evans	DVLA Doctor
Dr Alun Hemington-Gorse	DVLA Doctor
Mr Leigh A Bromfield	Driver Licensing Policy Lead
Mrs Helen Harris	Driver Licensing Policy
Mrs Julie Bartlett	Driver Licensing Policy
Ms Emma Lewis	Driver Licensing Policy
Mr Dewi Richards	Driver Licensing Policy
Mrs Suzanne Richards	Service Management
Ms Danielle Theophilus	Service Management
Mr Richard Davies	Service Management
Mr Jamie Ward	Senior Lead, Drivers Medical Business Support and Change
Mrs Andrea Lovell	Senior Executive Officer Drivers Medical Complex Casework
Mrs Siân Taylor	DVLA Panel Coordinator/PA to the Senior DVLA Doctor

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Sue Stannard	Chief Medical Advisor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Dr Ed Bebb	Professional Head of Health and Wellbeing RSSB
Mr Samuel Barnard	Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Nurse

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Panel Chair welcomed everyone and provided introductions; apologies were received. The Panel Chair reminded attendees of meeting etiquette. The Panel Chair prompted panel members to update their declarations of interest.

3. MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no actions or matters arising carried over from previous meeting.

SECTION B: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Law Change – Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems (CGMS) for bus and lorry (Group 2) drivers

DVLA provided a further update on the proposed consultation for CGMS for Group 2 drivers and advised that they are currently awaiting the necessary approvals to launch the consultation.

Should CGMS be approved for Group 2 driving further discussions with Panel will be necessary to ensure that a full review of the current Group 2 application and medical assessment process is undertaken. Dr Ewan Hutchinson from Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) informed the panel that he would provide the CAA guidance for CGMS.

Discussion was held regarding the identification of the risk of severe hypoglycaemia and appropriate licensing durations. Panel agreed that data analysis / research would be required before any changes could be considered.

The information provided on medical questionnaires and in information booklets was discussed. Panel advised that the accessibility of format, consistency of wording used, and available languages required consideration.

The panel inquired about the availability of accident-related research or data specific to various medical conditions. DVLA advised that it does not hold such data but the possibility of obtaining data from other sources (e.g., charities, police) was discussed. A DVLA Doctor

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shared information about a study from the University of Melbourne that links diabetes to crash risk.

5. Independent Diabetologist Meeting

Feedback from Meeting with Independent Diabetologists, 19th April 2023.

DVLA Doctor provided the panel with a summary of the meeting of independent diabetologists that took place on April 19th, 2023.

DVLA requested panel suggestions with regard to the date of the next meeting and agenda items. The panel suggested that the next meeting should be scheduled for the week commencing September 23rd, 2024.

Suggestions for agenda items,

- Challenging case studies
- Feedback on information provided by DVLA
- Timeline / medical enquiry process presentation by DVLA
- Data surrounding accidents involving medical issues.

6. Call for Evidence

Driver Licensing Policy discussed the call for evidence. DVLA launched a call for evidence on driver licensing and medical conditions which ran for 12 weeks from 31 July 2023. Evidence was gathered from members of the public and a range of experts across organisations, and responses are currently being analysed to assist with reviewing the existing legislative framework. A summary of the responses will be published in due course.

Panel enquired about the possibility of having more influence on the questions raised. DVLA clarified that while the questions focused on medical licensing, they weren't specific to particular medical conditions.

7. Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

CRM - Update (Drivers Medical Remodel).

It was explained that this had been successfully introduced for diabetes since 12th August 2023, dealing with notifications and since 15th December 2023 for licence renewals. It allows licences

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to be issued, that can be on series one only forms. It has not yet been integrated for clinician forms. DVLA advised of the proposed next stages in the system's development.

The panel supported a proposal that CRM might be employed as an educational tool at licence renewal. It was recognised that customers lacking IT capability would still require an alternative channel.

The panel suggested that self-declaration in conjunction with the provision of CGMS metrics via CRM might possibly assist the development of increased Group 2 licensing periods.

The panel considered that it might be desirable to ensure that future CRM developments are linked to any change to the legislative position and medical standards with regard to GCMS and hypoglycaemic awareness in the eventuality that such changes to be progressed.

8. Panel Recruitment

Driver Licensing Policy provided a panel recruitment update. DVLA have successfully recruited 4 new panel chairs, Diabetes, Cardiology, Alcohol & Drugs, and Vision Panels. Eight existing experts across various panels have been re-appointed for a further 5 years, and 10 members have left the panels due to the expiry of their tenure or resignation.

DVLA are shortly due to run recruitment schemes for a new panel chair on the Psychiatry Panel, and for new lay members to join the Alcohol & Drugs, Cardiology, Diabetes, Neurology, Psychiatry, and Vision Panels.

DVLA will share the relevant links to the adverts with panel in due course.

SECTION C: ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS

9. Tests, horizon scanning, research, and literature

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

DVLA advised panel of the Agency's work with some medical schools and the possibility of medical students conducting literature reviews.

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Panel suggested that the impact of hyperglycaemia on cognitive function and driving requires consideration.

Panel advised DVLA that a once-a-week insulin injection had been licenced this week. Trials to date have suggested that this therapy may be associated with a small increased risk of hypoglycaemia.

Panel also discussed Group 2 drivers using S&G medication and discussed the associated medical questionnaires and information leaflets.

10. AOB

For the next meeting panel would be interested in finding out if Department of Transport or others have any recorded information on reported road casualty's related to medical conditions.

11. Date and Time of next meeting

Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Original draft minutes prepared by:

Siân Taylor
Note Taker
Date: 28th March 2024

Final minutes signed off by:

Professor Choudhary
Panel Chair
Date: 15th April 2024

**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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