

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR LICENCE AFTER YOU HAVE HAD AN ICD IMPLANTED

1. Contact the DVLA. Write direct, telephone or access the forms on their web site. Your ICD Centre will also be able to provide you the forms.
2. The forms will ask for your permission to contact your ICD centre. They will also ask for details of your defibrillator and your medical condition that required the ICD in the first place.
3. The current regulations mean that you may not have to surrender your license but you will have to sign a **declaration of trust** that if you have any shock or pacing treatments from your ICD that have caused dizziness, loss of consciousness or "incapacity to drive" that you **must** notify them.
4. You will be asked to send these completed forms back to the DVLA and you may then resume driving **6 months after** your initial implant if you have had no treatments that have caused any of the above symptoms described in point 3 above. The DVLA will confirm this in writing to you.

Forms sometimes go missing so copies of all DVLA forms are kept in your hospital notes.

If you experience any problems whatsoever, please contact your local ICD Centre who will do their best to speed things up.

Go to www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical.aspx for more details on these rules and regulations regarding driving and ICDs.

Royal Surrey County Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Trust

Epsom and St. Helier
University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Frimley Park Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Surrey and Sussex
Healthcare NHS Trust

Adapted for use in Surrey Nov 2010 with
permission from St. George's Hospital NHS Trust

NHS
Surrey



Living with an ICD? All you need to know about ...

DRIVING



Patient Information Leaflet
for People Living with an
Internal Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

*If you would like to meet other
people living with an ICD, then why
not come along to the ICD Club.*

*It is based in West Surrey but is
open to anyone living in Surrey*

Contact Ian Clement on
01932 722530 or email
ian.clement@asph.nhs.uk

ICDs AND DRIVING

One of the disadvantages of having an ICD is that there are rules and regulations relating to driving.

These have been set by the DVLA in conjunction with the Cardiology Advisory Panel and are constantly reviewed and updated so are subject to change.

The rules are for the good of everybody and have been carefully thought out. Although they do undoubtedly mean difficulties for you, they have been devised to protect all those who use the road.

The rules may change but safety for all will always be the main priority.

CURRENT DVLA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ICD PATIENTS

1. If you have had an ICD implanted for protective(prophylactic) reasons and are at high risk of having a cardiac arrhythmia then you may drive 1 month after implant of the ICD and **YOU DO NOT NEED TO NOTIFY THE DVLA.**
2. Patients who have had a cardiac arrest or a life-threatening ventricular arrhythmia and who have a newly implanted ICD may not drive for a period of 6 months after implant. You must also notify the DVLA that you have an ICD.

3. **Six months after implant** you may drive again provided the appropriate forms and details have been completed, on condition that:

- You have had **no therapy from the ICD that has been accompanied by any incapacity** i.e. dizziness, light-headedness or black-out. You will have an ICD check at about 4-5 months to clarify this.
 - There is no other reason such as your medical condition generally that disqualifies you from driving.
4. Box changes
 - You must not drive for ONE WEEK after revision of an ICD system or a box change.
 5. You must not drive for ONE MONTH if you have had a new lead
 6. You must not drive for ONE MONTH if your doctor has changed your anti-arrhythmic drug medicine.

If your cardiac status changes or if at any time you receive therapy from your ICD that is accompanied by dizziness, syncope or "incapacity" then the driving ban is re-applied and you will be reviewed after a further 6 months clear.

It is possible that if you continue to have therapy from your ICD for symptoms that cause dizziness or blackout you may be permanently banned from driving or currently put on a 2 year review.

If you have web access and want to check the DVLA regulations they are updated regularly:

www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical.aspx

LICENCE PROCESSING TIME HOW LONG DO THE D.V.L.A.TAKE?

The D.V.L.A has to send forms to your Consultant at your ICD centre. He then signs off the form to say it is appropriate to issue a licence and sends it back to the D.V.L.A.

This all takes time and as more and more people are having ICD's implanted, the process may take a while.

Different people have had various experiences but we recommend that you allow up to **6 - 8 weeks** from the start of your application.

We will see you in the ICD clinic just before the 6 months are up to read your ICD and check that you have had no problems.

INSURANCE ISSUES

It is also necessary to notify your insurance company that your medical status has changed.

Most insurance companies will not "load" your insurance but if they try to we can provide a list of "ICD friendly" insurance companies who may be able to help.

Don't forget that your insurance will be based not only on your ICD but on your general medical/cardiac condition as well

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT DRIVING AND WHETHER YOU ARE ELIGIBLE OR NOT ... CONTACT THE ICD CLINIC AND DISCUSS IT WITH US.