

DRIVING WITH CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

Advice for people with congenital heart disease (CHD), with or without pulmonary hypertension (PH).

If you have a UK driving licence for a car or motorcycle and are diagnosed with PH, here's some information we hope you'll find useful.

The DVLA has recently updated its medical guidance meaning you **MUST NOW INFORM THE DVLA** if you have a diagnosis of CHD. Your eligibility to drive will only come into question if you are **SYMPTOMATIC WHEN DRIVING** (palpitations, feeling faint etc.) This is not the same as being symptomatic during physical activity (climbing stairs etc.).

How do I inform the DVLA?

Call **0300 790 6806** and tell the agent you have congenital heart disease and are under the care of a specialist centre. **Please be aware that the advice you are given on the telephone may be out of date and you may be told that congenital heart disease is not a declarable condition.** The PHA UK made several test enquiries to the DVLA and received inconsistent advice before we eventually spoke to their senior doctor to clarify the definitive situation. **When you call the DVLA, be sure to make a note of the date and time that you called, and keep this information in a safe place.**

What will happen?

It is highly unlikely that you will have your licence revoked simply by calling the DVLA, so please don't worry. You may be required to have a specialist assessment, but you should be allowed to continue to drive until that takes place. The only exception is if you are suffering with syncope (blackouts). It is likely that you will be sent a H1 Medical Questionnaire to complete.

See page two for advice on completing the H1 form.



Questions?

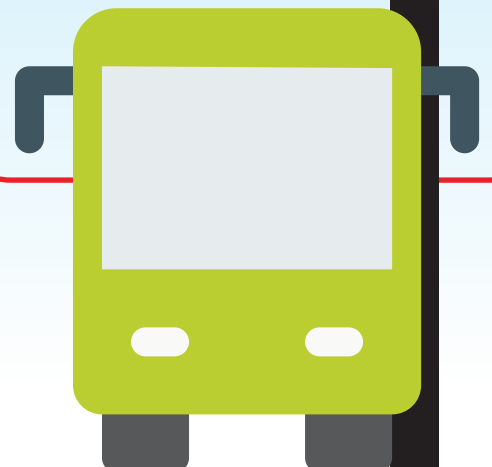
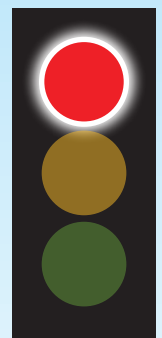
The PHA UK are unable to advise on individual circumstances. Please contact the DVLA directly on **0300 790 6806** with queries about driving with CH. Be sure to make a note of the date and time that you called, and keep this information in a safe place.

It is very rare for someone to lose their driving licence just because they have CHD and/or PH. If you think it may be unsafe for you to drive, DO NOT DRIVE!



What if I drive a large vehicle?

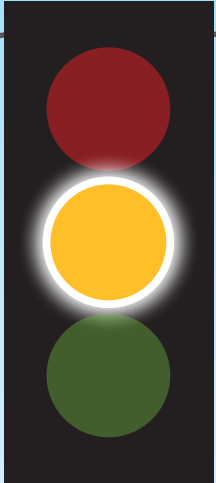
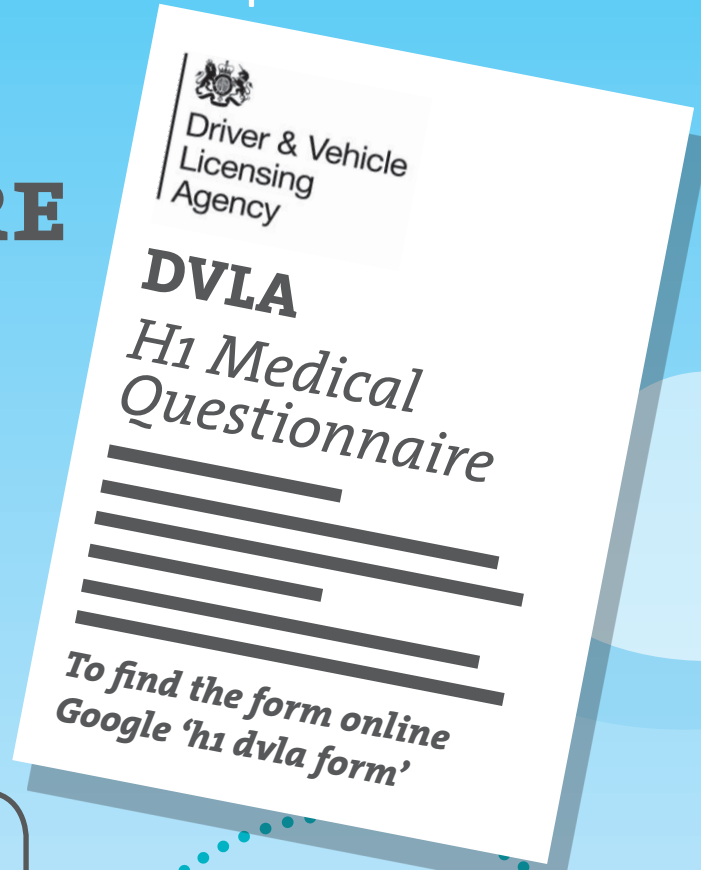
If you drive a large vehicle such as a HGV or bus, unfortunately you will be unable to drive until you have had an individual assessment, due to the additional risks associated with large vehicles. It is vital that you inform the DVLA if you are a professional driver.



COMPLETING THE DVLA'S H1 MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

You may be asked to complete a H1 medical questionnaire after you have notified the DVLA of your congenital heart disease. Here's some advice to help you.

If you have any letters from your consultant that confirm you are fit to drive, include them with the form. Even though the form doesn't ask for clinical letters, it will help.



*Most of the form is quite straightforward, however questions **1.3** and **1.4** need particular attention. We advise that you carefully answer these on the basis of how you feel **when driving** (ie: sitting down), and not during physical activity. Please be reassured that it is **very rare** for someone to lose their driving licence just because they have PH.*



Questions?
The PHA UK are unable to advise on individual circumstances. Please contact the DVLA directly on **0300 790 6806** with queries about driving with CHD and/or PH. Be sure to make a note of the date and time that you called, and keep this information in a safe place.

