

For immediate release

8 March 2013

New driving regulations for people with epilepsy

People with epilepsy need to be aware of new DVLA driving regulations which come into effect this month (March).

To help people find their way round the changes, Epilepsy Society has updated its driving information and produced new guides to include the new regulations. The quick guide and driving leaflet are available at [www.epilepsysociety.org.uk](http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk) or by calling 01494 601 392.

Amanda Cleaver, communications and campaigns manager for the charity, said: “I urge people to be aware of the changes, for instance the new regulations mean that potentially more people with epilepsy will be able to drive, or drive sooner than they would have been able to previously.

The changes may affect people who have seizures that do not affect an individual’s consciousness or ability to act and asleep seizures (seizures that start when you are asleep). In addition, when a seizure occurs during a physician advised change or withdrawal of medication, driving could start after six months rather than the current 12 months.

These changes apply to drivers of Group 1 vehicles only – Cars and Motorcycles.

The DVLA have appreciated the Epilepsy Society’s input into these new changes and look forward to working together in the future.

(ends)

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**Epilepsy Society website press area:** [www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/**pressoffice**](http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/pressoffice)

**Notes for Editors:**

**Epilepsy:**

Epilepsy is the most common serious neurological condition and affects more than half a million people in the UK, around one person in every hundred.

**Epilepsy Society:**

Epilepsy Society is the working name for the National Society for Epilepsy (NSE) the UK’s leading provider of epilepsy services. Its headquarters in Buckinghamshire are a centre for medical research into the condition, housing the only MRI scanner in the UK dedicated solely to epilepsy. It also operates a globally unique NHS epilepsy assessment facility providing individual assessment, rehabilitation training and ground-breaking research opportunities. It also provides residential care to around 100 people with severe epilepsy.

Epilepsy Society runs a confidential helpline from Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm and to 8pm on Wednesdays. It has a comprehensive range of information leaflets on many aspects of living and coping with epilepsy. In addition, the charity runs tailor-made training programmes for health professionals, employers and individuals as well as providing a comprehensive range of training and qualifications for staff members.

Epilepsy Society helpline 01494 601400

Epilepsy Society website [www.epilepsysociety.org.uk](http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk)

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