



Medical standards for drivers of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles for common medical conditions

1. It is the duty of you as the licence holder to inform us if you have a condition or are undergoing treatment or have a medical condition that may now, or in the future, affect your safety as a driver. You must inform us in writing and supply supporting medical reports/letters within 7 days of the start of the condition.
2. The standards are higher for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers than those required for normal car drivers. This page is a list of common conditions that would bar someone from becoming a Hackney Carriage and or a Private Hire driver, it is not an exclusive list. If you are in any doubt as to whether your condition would affect your application please email the Licensing team at licensing@surreyheath.gov.uk for further advice.
3. The following conditions are a bar to holding a Hackney Carriage and or Private Hire driver licence:

3.1. Epileptic attack

Applicants must have been free of epileptic seizures for at least the last 10 years and have not taken anti-epileptic medication during this 10 year period. If these conditions cannot be met the Council may refuse or revoke the licence.

3.2. Diabetes

Insulin treated diabetics may not obtain a licence unless they held a Hackney Carriage and or Private Hire driver licence valid at 1 April 1991 and the Council had knowledge of the insulin treatment before 1 January 1991, or if they meet a strict criteria for diabetic control. If you believe you may meet these criteria please contact Licensing to discuss this further.

3.3. Eyesight

a) Applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle driver licences must have

- i) A visual acuity of at least 6/7.5 (0.8 decimal) in the better eye; **and**
- ii) A visual acuity of at least 6/60 (0.1 decimal) in the other eye; **and**
- iii) Where glasses are worn to meet the minimum standards, they should have corrective power not exceeding +8 dioptres in any meridian of either lens.

b) It is also necessary for all drivers of Group 2 vehicles to be able to meet the prescribed and relevant Group 1 visual acuity requirements:-

- i) Must be able to meet the above prescribed standard for reading a number plate. In addition, the visual acuity (with the aid of glasses or contact lenses if worn) must be at least 6/12 (Snellen decimal 0.5) with both eyes open, or in the only eye if monocular.

c) Applicants are barred from holding a Hackney Carriage and or Private Hire vehicle driver licence if they have

- i) Uncontrolled diplopia (double vision)
- ii) Or do not have a normal binocular field of vision

4. Other medical conditions

In addition to those medical conditions shown above, applicants (or licence holders) should be shown as unfit to drive a Hackney Carriage and or Private Hire vehicle if they are unable to meet the DVLA Group 2 guidelines in the following cases:

- 4.1. Within 3 months of myocardial infraction, any episode of unstable angina, CABG or coronary angioplasty
- 4.2. A significant disturbance of cardiac rhythm unless special criteria are met
- 4.3. Suffering from or receiving medication for angina or heart failure
- 4.4. Hypertension where the BP is consistently 180 systolic or over or 100 diastolic or over
- 4.5. A stroke, or TIA within the last 12 months
- 4.6. Unexplained loss of consciousness within the past 5 years



- 4.7. Meniere's and other conditions causing disabling vertigo, within the past year and with a liability to recurrence
- 4.8. Recent severe head injury with serious continuing after effects, or major brain surgery
- 4.9. Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or other "chronic" neurological disorders likely to affect limb power and coordination
- 4.10. Suffering from a psychotic illness in the past 3 years, or suffering from dementia
- 4.11. Persistent alcohol, drug or substance misuse in the past 12 months or alcohol, drug or substance misuse in the past 3 years
- 4.12. Insuperable difficulty in communicating by telephone in an emergency
- 4.13. Any other serious medical conditions which may cause problems for road safety
- 4.14. If major psychotropic or neuroleptic medication is being taken
- 4.15. Any malignant condition within the last 2 years likely to metastasise to the brain for example malignant melanoma

A Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence issued after cardiac assessment – usually for ischaemic or untreated heart valve disease – will usually be short-term and licence renewal will require satisfactory medical reports including an exercise or other functional test, as required from the DVLA. See Appendix C at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appendices-assessing-fitness-to-drive#appendix-c-cardiovascular-considerations>