Rules about driving after a seizure

Why are there rules about not driving after a seizure?

Driving a motor vehicle is a complex task involving perception, appropriate judgement, adequate response time and appropriate physical capability.

A range of medical conditions, disabilities and treatments may influence these driving prerequisites. Such impairment may adversely affect driving ability, possibly resulting in a crash causing death or injury to yourself or others.

There are standards that ensure someone’s fitness to drive is assessed in a consistent manner. In Australia, the Austroads ‘Assessing Fitness to Drive: for commercial and private vehicle drivers’ provides the medical standards for licensing.

A person is deemed not fit to hold an unconditional licence should they experience a seizure.

What are the rules?

After your first seizure you are not permitted to drive until:

- For a **private vehicle** licence, a conditional licence may be considered if there have been **no further seizures for at least 6 months** and you undergo annual medical review and have a treating doctor agree it’s safe for you to return to driving.

- For a **commercial vehicle** licence, a conditional licence may be considered if there have been **no further seizures for at least 5 years** and you have a normal EEG. You need to undergo annual medical review and have an epilepsy specialist agree it’s safe for you to return to driving.

For more information