

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER

MEDICAL ADVICE NOTE - DIABETES

Responsibility for determining the standards, including medical requirements, to be applied to taxi drivers is a matter for the Local Authority. Current best practice advice on the medical fitness of drivers is contained in the booklet "Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive" published by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention in 1995 as a guide to Medical Practitioners. This recommends that the 'Group 2' medical standards applied by the DVLA in relation to bus and lorry drivers, should also be applied by local authorities to taxi drivers. These standards are higher than for private motorists because professional vocational drivers spend substantially longer at the wheel so the risk of sudden illness occurring when at the wheel is greater.

In the case of sufferers of diabetes the 'Group 2' medical standard stipulates that in the case of insulin treated diabetes, new applicants on insulin or existing drivers are barred in law from driving vehicles from 1 April 1991. Drivers licensed before this date on insulin are dealt with individually and licensed subject to satisfactory annual Consultant assessment. Regulation changes in April 2001 allow "exceptional case" drivers to apply for or retain their entitlement to drive class C1 vehicles (3500-7500kgs lorries) subject to annual medical examination.

This is different from the situation where diabetes is managed by tablets. In this case the Group 2 standard permits drivers to be licensed unless they develop relevant disabilities such as diabetic eye problem affecting visual acuity or visual fields, in which case it is likely that it would not be appropriate to issue a licence.

Those applicants for the grant of a driver's licence or those licensed drivers who are or become insulin dependant diabetics, where they have good diabetic control and who have no significant complications will be treated by the authority as "exceptional cases."

The criteria for exceptional circumstances are that the individual must:

- a) have been taking insulin for at least 4 weeks;
- b) not have suffered an episode of hypoglycaemia requiring the assistance of another person whilst driving in the last 12 months;
- c) attend an examination by your own GP or a hospital consultant specialising in the treatment of diabetes at intervals of not more than 12 months and provide a report from such a consultant in support of each application which confirms a history of responsible diabetic control with a minimal risk of incapacity due to hypoglycaemia;
- d) sign a declaration and keep evidence of at least twice daily blood glucose monitoring at times when hackney carriage or private hire vehicles are being driven (those that have not held C1 entitlement in the preceding 12 months may provide evidence of blood glucose monitoring while driving other vehicles). Such evidence to be made available on the request of an authorised officer;
- e) have no other condition which would render the driver a danger when driving hackney carriages and private hire vehicles; and
- f) give an undertaking to comply with the directions of the doctor(s) treating the diabetes and to report immediately to the licensing authority any significant change in condition.

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HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER – APPLICATION FOR TREATMENT AS AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE IN RESPECT OF DIABETES

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title & Surname: _____ Badge No. _____

Christian/Other Names: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address _____

Postcode: _____ E Mail Address: _____

Daytime Tel No _____ Mobile Tel No: _____

APPLICATION PARTICULARS

Number of weeks I have been taking insulin	_____ weeks
I confirm that I have not suffered an episode of hypoglycaemia requiring the assistance of another person whilst driving in the last 12 months	YES / NO
I attach a report from my GP or hospital consultant, specialising in the treatment of diabetes, which confirms a history of responsible diabetic control with a minimal risk of incapacity due to hypoglycaemia.	YES / NO
I confirm that I carry out at least twice daily blood glucose monitoring at times when hackney carriage or private hire vehicles are being driven and that I keep evidence of the monitoring (those that have not held C1 entitlement in the preceding 12 months may provide evidence of blood glucose monitoring while driving other vehicles). I understand I may be required to produce this evidence to an authorised officer.	YES / NO
I have no other condition which would render the driver a danger when driving hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.	YES / NO

I undertake to comply with the directions of the doctor(s) treating the diabetes and will report immediately to the licensing authority, in addition to the DVLA, any significant change in my condition.

SIGNED _____ DATED _____