

Splint and brace advice for drivers

i Information for patients
MSK Outpatients



PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



This advice is for people who have been provided with a splint or brace to protect their injury. These include:

- thermoplastic humeral brace
- hinged cast brace
- any thermoplastic hand splints

It is recommended that you **do not drive** throughout the time you are advised to wear your splint / brace.

How will my splint affect my ability to drive?

If you are a motorbike, car, van, bus or lorry driver you need to be aware of the possible consequences of your condition and the impact it may have on your ability to drive. It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are fit to drive and you are accountable for your actions and decisions when driving.

A splint will affect your ability to control the vehicle as it will restrict the movement of your arm or leg.

A splint is provided to protect your condition and driving a vehicle may cause you further injury, damage or break the repairing tissues, and increase the time the injury takes to heal.

If you are involved in an accident whilst wearing a splint / brace you may not be covered by your insurance and may be subject to legal action.

Pain relief medication may also affect your ability to think clearly, reduce reaction time and make you drowsy. Please check medication leaflet or discuss with your GP or Pharmacist.

When can I return to driving after removal of my splint / brace?

Following the removal of your splint we recommend that you discuss your individual needs with your therapist. Splints are used for a variety of conditions and the movement in your arm or leg may not be back to normal.

Do I need to tell my insurance company?

We recommend that you inform your insurance company of your injury when you wish to return to driving **following** the removal of your splint. They may have certain restrictions for some conditions.

If you have been diagnosed with a condition and you need to wear a splint long term and wish to drive, you **must** inform your insurance company and the DVLA.

It is illegal to drive without valid insurance.

Do I need to tell the DVLA?

You need to tell the DVLA about your injury if you are affected for more than 12 weeks. Failure to do so may result in a fine.

If you are an HGV, bus or train driver you must inform your employer and the DVLA as restrictions may be different for you.

If you have been advised that your splint is for long term wear, you can access information about driving advice and assessment from the DVLA website **www.dft.gov.uk/dvla or contact 0330 790 6806**

Driver's Medical Enquiries
Driving and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA)
Swansea
SA99 1TU

If you have any further questions regarding the wearing of your splint / brace, please discuss this with your therapist:

.....



**Sheffield
Hospitals
Charity**

To help support your local hospitals visit
sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1165762



Yes I donate
ORGAN DONATION

**Alternative formats can be available on request.
Please email: alternativeformats@sth.nhs.uk**

© Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2019

Re-use of all or any part of this document is governed by copyright and the "Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005" SI 2005 No. 1515. Information on re-use can be obtained from the Information Governance Department, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Email infogov@sth.nhs.uk