



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

Driving And Epilepsy

Having a seizure while driving is a serious danger, not only to the driver and passengers, but also to others on or near the roadway. Driving is therefore usually restricted from individuals with epilepsy. Decisions regarding driving privileges are considered on an individual basis with your physician, usually your neurologist, with guidelines established by the Motor Vehicles Branch of the Provincial Government, as part of the Motor Vehicles Act.

These guidelines are periodically updated. This information is current as of February 2005. If there are changes in the future they will be provided to the physicians of British Columbia.

Contact information:

Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles public inquiries: 250-387-7747

Website: www.pssq.gov.bc.ca/osmv

www.drivesafe.com

Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) customer contact: 250-978-8300

Website: www.icbc.com

Transportation suggestions:

- Not being able to drive may present challenges to your lifestyle. Consider other ways to get to where you want to go.
- If your area has a public transit system, use it! Be sure to ask about discounted or frequent-user transit passes.
- Join a car pool to work. Offer to share gas and toll costs with a co-worker who lives in the area.
- Ask family, friends, and neighbours. Many times they can give you a ride to similar locations (groceries, mall, etc.) when they are going. They will be glad to help.
- Use a community transportation service. Some communities have cheap or free transportation services that can take you to the grocery store or medical/dental appointments.

****If you have controlled seizures and have obtained driving privileges, and have experienced a breakthrough or unaccustomed seizure or loss of awareness, stop driving and contact your doctor or neurologist.***



Seizures	Private Drivers Class 5 - 8	Professional Driver Class 1 - 4
Single unprovoked seizure. Before a diagnosis	Need neurological consultation, including EEG and Imaging Driving suspension until a diagnosis or cause determined, up to six months	Need neurological consultation, including EEG and Imaging Driving suspension until a diagnosis or cause determined, 12 months
After Epilepsy diagnosis	May drive if: -six months seizure free on medication, and Physician is confident that the person is conscientious and reliable	May drive when: -seizure free on or off medications for five years, with support of their physician/neurologist
After surgery to prevent epileptic seizures	Must be at least 12 months seizure free after surgery	May drive when: -seizure free on or off medications for five years, with support of their physician/neurologist
Seizures in sleep or immediately upon awakening	May drive if: -seizures only occur in sleep or upon awakening for at least five years	May not drive professionally
Medication withdrawal or change: A) initial withdrawal or change in medication	Must not drive for a period of three months from the time medication has been discontinued or changed	May drive when: -seizure free on or off medications for five years, with support of their physician/neurologist
B) If seizures recur after supervised withdrawal or change in medication	Can drive once resume taking medication, if physician feels medication is adequate, and if person was previously seizure free for one year	May drive when: -seizure free on or off medications for five years, with support of their physician/neurologist
Auras (simple partial seizures)	May drive if: -no impairment in level of consciousness or cognition -seizures are unchanged for more than 12 months -neurologist approves	
Alcohol-withdrawal induced seizures	May drive after six months if: -remain alcohol and seizure free for six months -completed a recognized rehabilitation program for substance dependence, with a statement received from the Director of the Alcohol and Drug Centre involved	May drive after six months if: -remain alcohol and seizure free for six months -completed a recognized rehabilitation program for substance dependence, with a statement received from the Director of the Alcohol and Drug Centre involved

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You can join the BC Epilepsy Society as a member and receive all the program and service benefits.
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