

## Dementia and Driving

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1

## Driving and Dementia

- Fear for many people is loss of driving license
- Huge issue in rural areas
- Dementia diagnosis is not in itself a reason to stop driving
- Main issue is whether the person is safe
- However over time dementia affects driving skills – focus, attention, problem solving, judgement, reaction, memory, calmness.
- Think about other co-morbidities as well – sight, head-turning, strength, medications
- If a person wants to keep driving they must let DVLA of the diagnosis and insurance – straight away – failure £1000 fine and insurance cover void
- DVLA will ask for medical info and send person a questionnaire

2

- As doctors if obviously unsafe then advice is to stop, if unsure we can advise stopping and DVLA will require further tests before the person can drive.
- If a person wants to stop then they send license back to DVLA – voluntary surrender
- DVLA will gather info – they will either recommend they can drive (issue license for 1-3 years), advice to stop driving or ask for driving assessment
- Cornwall Mobility in Truro - [info@cornwallmobility.co.uk](mailto:info@cornwallmobility.co.uk)

3

## Reducing risks of driving problems



SHORT  
PERIODS OF  
DRIVING



FAMILIAR  
ROUTES



DRIVE IN DAY-  
LIGHT



AVOID RADIO  
OR  
DISTRACTIONS



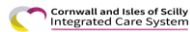
DON'T DRIVE IF  
FEELING TIRED



AVOID BAD  
WEATHER

4

### Coping With giving up driving



For some it will be a relief



For others worrying and upsetting and a huge loss



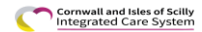
Advice on alternatives—local buses, taxis, Age UK community Transport, Volunteer Cornwall or contact DIAL



Taxi's cheaper if driving less than 3000 miles a year

5

### If a person refuses to stop driving



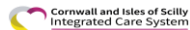
Might be because person does not accept their diagnosis or forgets a license has been revoked

Doctor must to DVLA – they will follow up with police

Carers could hide keys, take car away, disable the car, park car out of sight,

6

### Blue Badge



- Remember dementia is a disability
- May be eligible - severe cognitive problems/ physically disability – may be entitled
- Blue Badge depends on disability not diagnosis

7