

It is important that health professionals familiarise themselves with both the general information above and the tabulated standards before making an assessment of a person's fitness to drive.

**Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy**

**Step 1: Read 'All cases'. This applies to all people with seizures.**

**Step 2: Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.**

**Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.**

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
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**All cases: default standard**

All cases (default standard) Applies to all people who have experienced a seizure. Exceptions may be considered only if the situation matches one of those listed below.	Private standards A person is <b>not</b> fit to hold an <b>unconditional licence</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the person has experienced a seizure.</li> </ul> A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review,*</b> taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no seizures for at least <b>12 months;** and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed or recommended.</li> </ul> <p>* If a driver undergoing treatment for epilepsy has experienced an extended seizure free period (more than 10 years) the driver licensing authority may consider reduced review requirements based on independent specialist advice (refer to section 3.3.7 Independent experts/panels).</p> <p>** Shorter seizure-free periods may be considered by the driver licensing authority if the person's situation matches one of those in the remainder of this table.</p>	Commercial standards A person is <b>not</b> fit to hold an <b>unconditional licence</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the person has experienced a seizure.</li> </ul> A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review,*</b> taking into account information provided by a <b>specialist in epilepsy</b> as to whether the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no seizures for at least <b>10 years;** and</b></li> <li>an EEG conducted in the last six months has shown no epileptiform activity and no other EEG conducted in the last 12 months has shown epileptiform activity; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed or recommended.</li> </ul> <p>* If a driver undergoing treatment for epilepsy has experienced an extended seizure free period (more than 20 years) the driver licensing authority may consider reduced review requirements based on independent specialist advice (refer to section 3.3.7 Independent experts/panels).</p> <p>** Shorter seizure-free periods may be considered by the driver licensing authority if the person's situation matches one of those in the remainder of this table.</p>
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**Possible reductions in the non-driving seizure-free periods for a conditional licence**

History of a benign seizure or epilepsy syndrome usually limited to childhood (e.g. febrile seizures, benign focal epilepsy, childhood absence epilepsy)	Private standards A history of a benign seizure or epilepsy syndrome usually limited to childhood does not disqualify the person from holding an unconditional licence, as long as there have been no seizures after 11 years of age. If a seizure has occurred after 11 years of age, the default standard (refer above) applies unless the situation matches one of those listed below.	Commercial standards A history of a benign seizure or epilepsy syndrome usually limited to childhood does not disqualify the person from holding an unconditional licence, as long as there have been no seizures after 11 years of age. If a seizure has occurred after 11 years of age, the default standard (refer above) applies unless the situation matches one of those listed below.
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## Neurological conditions

### Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy

**Step 1:** Read 'All cases'. This applies to all people with seizures.

**Step 2:** Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.

Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
<b>Possible reductions in the non-driving seizure-free periods for a conditional licence (cont'd)</b>		
<p><b>First seizure</b></p> <p>Note: Two or more seizures in a 24 hour period are considered a single seizure.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criterion is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no further seizures (with or without medication) for at least <b>six months</b>.</li> <li>if anti-epileptic therapy has been started, see Epilepsy treated for the first time</li> </ul>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by a <b>specialist in epilepsy</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no seizures for at least <b>five years</b> (with or without medication); and</li> <li>an EEG conducted in the last six months has shown no epileptiform activity and no other EEG conducted in the last 12 months has shown epileptiform activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Epilepsy treated for the first time</b></p> <p>This applies when anti-epileptic treatment has been started for the first time within the preceding 18 months. See flow chart, page 87.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the person has been treated for at least <b>six months</b>; and</li> <li>there have been no seizures in the preceding <b>six months</b>; and</li> <li>if any seizures occurred after the start of treatment, they happened only in the first <b>six months</b> after starting treatment and not in the last <b>six months</b>; and</li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication.</li> </ul>	<p>There is no reduction. The default standard applies.</p>
<p><b>Acute symptomatic seizures</b></p> <p>Seizures occurring only during a temporary brain disorder or metabolic disturbance in a person without previous seizures. This includes head injuries and withdrawal from drugs or alcohol. This is not the same as provoked seizures in a person with epilepsy.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criterion is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no further seizures for at least <b>six months</b>.</li> </ul> <p>If there have been two or more separate transient disorders causing acute symptomatic seizures, the default standard applies.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by a <b>specialist in epilepsy</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been no further seizures for at least <b>12 months</b>; and</li> <li>an EEG conducted in the last <b>six months</b> has shown no epileptiform activity and no other EEG conducted in the last <b>12 months</b> has shown epileptiform activity.</li> </ul> <p>If there have been two or more separate transient disorders causing acute symptomatic seizures, the default standard applies.</p>

**Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy**

**Step 1: Read 'All cases'. This applies to all people with seizures.**

**Step 2: Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.**

**Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.**

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
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**Possible reductions in the non-driving seizure-free periods for a conditional licence (cont'd)**

<p><b>'Safe' seizures</b></p> <p>These are defined as seizures that do not impair driving ability (which requires consciousness and ability to control the vehicle at all times). Normal responsiveness must have been tested by reliable witnesses or during video-EEG.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'safe' seizures have been present for at least <b>two years</b>; and</li> <li>• there have been no seizures of other type for at least <b>two years</b>; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed, or recommended.</li> </ul> <p>If the above criteria are not met, the default standard applies.</p>	<p>There is no reduction. The default standard applies.</p>
<p><b>Sleep-only seizures:</b></p> <p>Seizures occurring only during sleep.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority, despite continuing seizures only during sleep and subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there have been no previous seizures while awake; and</li> <li>• the first sleep-only seizure was at least <b>12 months</b> ago; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed, or recommended.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there have been previous seizures while awake but not in the preceding <b>two years</b>; and</li> <li>• sleep-only seizures have been occurring for at least <b>two years</b>; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed, or recommended.</li> </ul> <p>If the above criteria are not met, the default standard applies.</p>	<p>There is no reduction. The default standard applies.</p>

**Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy**

**Step 1:** Read 'All cases'. This applies to all people with seizures.

**Step 2:** Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.

Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
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**Possible reductions in the non-driving seizure-free periods for a conditional licence (cont'd)**

<p><b>Seizures in a person under treatment whose epilepsy was previously well controlled</b></p> <p>'Well controlled' is defined as: There were no seizures during the 12 months leading up to the last seizure.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the seizure was caused by an identified provoking factor; <b>and</b></li> <li>the provoking factor can be reliably avoided; <b>and</b></li> <li>the provoking factor has not caused previous seizures; <b>and</b></li> <li>there have been no seizures for at least <b>four weeks</b>; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication (periodic serum drug level measurements may be required)</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no cause for the seizure was identified; <b>and</b></li> <li>there have been no seizures for at least <b>three months</b>; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication.</li> </ul> <p>If the person has experienced one or more seizures during the <b>12 months</b> leading up to the last seizure, there is no reduction and the default standard applies.</p>	<p>There is no reduction. The default standard applies.</p>
<p><b>Exceptional cases</b></p>	<p>Where a medical specialist experienced in the management of epilepsy considers that a person with seizures or epilepsy does not meet the standards above for a conditional licence but may be safe to drive, a <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority, subject to at least <b>annual review</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the driver licensing authority, after considering information provided by a specialist experienced in the management of epilepsy, considers that the risk of a crash caused by a seizure is acceptably low; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed or recommended.</li> </ul>	<p>Where a specialist in epilepsy considers that a person with seizures or epilepsy does not meet the standards above for a conditional licence but may be safe to drive, a <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority, subject to at least <b>annual review</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the driver licensing authority, after considering information provided by a specialist experienced in the management of epilepsy, considers that the risk of a crash caused by a seizure is acceptably low; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication if prescribed or recommended.</li> </ul>

### Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy

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**Step 2: Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.**

**Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.**

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
<b>Other factors that may influence licence status</b>		
<p><b>Epilepsy treated by surgery (where the primary goal of surgery is the elimination of epilepsy)</b></p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criterion is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there have been no seizures for at least <b>12 months</b> following surgery; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice with respect to medication adherence.</li> </ul> <p>The vision standard may also apply if there is a visual field defect.</p> <p>If medication is withdrawn, refer to Planned withdrawal of all anti-epileptic medication.</p>	<p>A <b>conditional licence</b> may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by a <b>specialist in epilepsy</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there have been no seizures for at least <b>10 years</b>; and</li> <li>• an EEG conducted in the last six months has shown no epileptiform activity and no other EEG conducted in the last 12 months has shown epileptiform activity; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice with respect to medication adherence.</li> </ul> <p>The vision standard may also apply if there is a visual field defect.</p> <p>If any anti-epileptic medication is to be withdrawn, the person will no longer meet the criteria to hold a conditional licence.</p>
<p><b>Medication noncompliance</b></p>	<p>Refer to text, page 88.</p>	<p>Refer to text, page 88.</p>
<p><b>Planned withdrawal of one or more anti-epileptic medications in a person who satisfies the standard to hold a conditional licence</b></p>	<p>The person should not drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• during the period in which the dose is being tapered; and</li> <li>• for <b>three months</b> after the last dose.</li> </ul> <p>If seizures recur, the driver licensing authority may allow the person to resume driving on a <b>conditional licence</b> subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the previously effective medication regime is resumed; and</li> <li>• there have been no seizures for <b>four weeks</b> after resuming the medication regime; and</li> <li>• the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication.</li> </ul> <p>If seizures do not recur, the person may become eligible for an unconditional licence (refer to Resumption of unconditional licence).</p>	<p>If anti-epileptic medication is to be withdrawn, the person will no longer meet the criteria to hold a conditional licence. Driving may continue only after consideration by the driver licensing authority under the Exceptional cases standard (page 92).</p>

## Neurological conditions

### Medical standards for licensing – Seizures and epilepsy

**Step 1:** Read 'All cases'. This applies to all people with seizures.

**Step 2:** Look through the list of situations in the left column to see if the person matches one of these situations. If so, the driver licensing authority may consider a conditional licence after a shorter (reduced) period of seizure freedom.

Note that people are not eligible for a reduction if they have had a motor vehicle crash due to a seizure within the preceding 12 months. If withdrawal of all antiepileptic medication is planned, refer to the relevant section of the table.

Condition	Private standards (Drivers of cars, light rigid vehicles or motorcycles unless carrying public passengers or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)	Commercial standards (Drivers of heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles or requiring a dangerous goods driver licence – refer to definition, page 21)
<b>Other factors that may influence licence status (cont'd)</b>		
<p><b>Recommended reduction in dosage of anti-epileptic medication in a person who satisfies the standard to hold a conditional licence</b></p>	<p>Driving may continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the dose reduction is due only to the presence of current dose-related side effects and is unlikely to affect seizure control.</li> </ul> <p>In circumstances other than above, the person should not drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>during the period in which the dose reduction is being made; <b>and</b></li> <li>for <b>3 months</b> after completion of the dose reduction.</li> </ul> <p>If seizures recur, the driver licensing authority may allow the person to resume driving on a <b>conditional licence</b> subject to at least <b>annual review</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the previously effective medication dose is resumed; <b>and</b></li> <li>there have been no seizures for <b>4 weeks</b> after resuming the previously effective dose; <b>and</b></li> <li>the person follows medical advice, including adherence to medication.</li> </ul>	<p>Driving may continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if the dose reduction is due only to the presence of current dose-related side effects and is unlikely to result in a seizure.</li> </ul> <p>In circumstances other than the above, the person will no longer meet the criteria to hold a conditional licence.</p>
<p><b>Seizure causing a crash</b></p>	<p>If a person has experienced a crash or has lost control of the vehicle as a result of a seizure, the default seizure-free non-driving period applies, even if they fall into one of the seizure categories that allow a reduction.</p>	<p>If a person has experienced a crash or has lost control of the vehicle as a result of a seizure, the default seizure-free non-driving period applies, even if they fall into one of the seizure categories that allow a reduction.</p>
<p><b>Resumption of non-conditional licence</b></p>	<p>The driver licensing authority may consider granting an <b>unconditional licence</b>, taking into account information provided by the <b>treating doctor</b> as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the person has had no seizures for at least <b>five years</b>; <b>and</b></li> <li>has taken no anti-epileptic medication for at least the preceding <b>12 months</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to the text on page 88. Resumption of an unconditional commercial licence will not be considered.</p>