

## **P-886 - FITNESS TO DRIVE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

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The production of a concise and user-friendly leaflet on fitness to drive with mental illness.

The purpose of the leaflet is to help facilitate patient education and to provide them with a quick abridged reference and to assist practitioners' in parting advice to patients.

Extraction and collation of vital information from the 'At a glance Guide to the current medical standards of fitness to drive' guideline by DVLA, UK. This information was reviewed by a panel of consultant psychiatrists and an advisory board in DVA, Northern Ireland. Prior to the leaflet construction an audit was undertaken to assess awareness and compliance with the guideline, duty of informing DVA and to gauge the frequency of advice sought and imparted regarding suitability to drive with mental illness and the necessity for a leaflet.

Most practitioners are aware of the guideline recommendation and the hierarchy of the duty to inform DVA. Doctors are often asked about driving with mental illness and they often advise their patients. Majority agree that a leaflet containing concise information would be valuable. Thence, a guidance leaflet on fitness to drive with mental illness was produced. It includes the legal obligation to inform DVA, the requirements to notify DVA of prevalent mental illnesses, of both acute episodes and chronic conditions, for cars, motorcycles and LGV. It also includes a brief section on substance misuse and psychotropic medications.

A leaflet on fitness to drive with mental illness was produced as it is beneficial to both patients and practitioners.