

GUIDANCE FROM THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS COMMITTEE

DVLA - Consent for the Release of Relevant Medical Information for Patients

From next Monday, 17th August, new rules called *Consent by Assurance* are being implemented by the DVLA relating to the release of relevant medical information for patients applying for driving licences.

The BMA has given agreement that DVLA no longer need to provide the patients written consent from the patient for access to the relevant parts of their records for the purposes of being granted a driving licence. The attached documents explain the new rules to GPs and to driving licence applicants.

We are aware that this agreement might generate concerns amongst GPs about patient confidentiality. The GMC web site has a frequently asked questions supplement to their confidentiality guidance –

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/current/library/confidentiality_faq.asp

and one query advises that doctors should:-

“Obtain, or have seen, written consent to the disclosure from the patient or a person properly authorised to act on the patient’s behalf. You may, however, accept **written assurances from an officer of a government department that the patient’s written consent has been given.**”

The BMA has taken legal advice about a system of accepting such assurances from a government department, and received written assurances from the DVLA, in the form of a written legal indemnity.

Yours sincerely,



IN PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENCE

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Drivers Medical Group

Swansea SA99 1TU

Phone: 0870 600 0301 Fax: 0845 850 0095

Email: eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/driverhealth

Driver No:

Our Reference:

Date:

Dear Dr xxxxxxxxxxxx

I refer to our previous request for information about the above patient's medical condition relevant to their fitness to drive.

You have requested sight of the patient's written consent for the disclosure of this information, a copy of which is now enclosed together with a copy of our original request.

A prompt reply would be appreciated so that the licence can be processed quickly. I therefore enclose a pre-paid envelope.

Rev Aug 09

Yours sincerely,

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