



How can MS affect my driving?

Coordination of your arms and legs - important for changing gears, break, and acceleration.

Strength - to use foot pedals and the steering wheel.

Vision - ability to focus, to see the signs on the edge of your vision, to judge distances, to see obstacles that have poor contrast with their surroundings, to cope with glare and changes in your visual field.

Fatigue - can make all your MS symptoms worse

Concentration - easily distracted by the radio, other cars or passengers, or difficulty doing two things at once

Feeling Dizzy— or vertigo. Difficulties with balance and monitoring sensations of movement - very important for driving

Reaction times - the time between something appearing in your visual field or hearing something such as an emergency siren, and your response.

Memory - knowledge of road rules and signs and the way to get from A to B.

Changes to sensation - a problem if you cannot feel the pedals under your feet, or if you can't feel the gear shift, so have to look each time you change gears

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

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For more information on multiple sclerosis and services available contact the MS Society in you state:

ACT/NSW/VIC - 1800 287 367

SA & NT - 1800 812 311

WA - 1800 287 367

TAS - 1800 676 721



A U S T R A L I A

MS QUEENSLAND DRIVING AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



“Driving for most people is an important part of daily life...but with the benefits of being able to drive also come certain responsibilities”



A U S T R A L I A

Driving with MS and Australian Law

As a driver with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis you need to be aware of certain legal and moral responsibilities you have. A diagnosis of MS does not automatically mean that you are no longer able to drive, however, the symptoms of MS are many and varied and they do not have to be major ones to affect your ability to drive.

Often as the person with MS, it is difficult to stand back from your driving and the independence it brings to seriously consider your symptoms and the impact they have on your driving skills. You also need to be aware of certain obligations as a driver by law that you must adhere to.

Previously, drivers were only legally required to report the condition when they obtained or renewed a license. Now you can no longer wait until it is time to renew your license to report.

As soon as the condition develops, or as soon as there is an adverse change to an existing condition, you need to take steps to inform Department of Transport and Main Roads.

If you fail to report a condition as soon as it develops you may receive a maximum \$6000 penalty or be disqualified from driving for a certain period. If you are involved in an accident under these circumstances and it is found that your MS symptoms were a contributing factor, you may be prosecuted and your insurance may not be valid.

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How do I Notify?

Visit your health Practitioner – fill in the medical form available through Dept Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). Take to DTMR as soon as possible.

www.transport.qld.gov.au

Phone: 13 23 80

E-mail: fastinfo@transport.qld.gov.au

A minimum yearly review of your driving ability by your Health Practitioner is recommended. If there are any adverse changes in your condition which may affect your driving ability, it is your responsibility to report these to your Health Practitioner.

Your Doctor may refer you to a specialist eg Ophthalmologist, or a driver trained Occupational therapist for further assistance.

Think about your answers to these questions:

- Would I want my loved ones to be crossing the road on foot, or driving on the same road at the same time as me (or my partner with MS)?
- Are others willing or reluctant to be your passengers?
- Do others offer to drive you instead of you driving them?
- Do you rely on others in the car to help you see signs, pedestrians and other cars?

Make an appointment with your doctor to discuss the impact of MS on your driving ability and complete all the relevant forms



If you have been diagnosed with MS and currently have a learner permit or drivers licence you are required to notify Department of Transport and Main Roads of your diagnosis as soon as practical

RACQ Driver Assessment Service
For general review of driving skills
PH: 3361 2444

OT Australia (QLD)
For contact details on Driver trained Occupational Therapists in Queensland
PH: 3361 2444 or www.otqld.org.au

AusRoads
For details regarding Australian medical standards to assess driving
www.austroads.com.au/aftd

UQ Drive
For people over 60 who are looking to retire from driving
PH: 3346 7487 or uqdriveteam@uq.edu.au