Patient with dementia who is driving*

**Raise the issue of driving**
- Discuss the risks and benefits of driving.
- Advise patient that they are legally obliged to notify their Driver Licensing Authority (DLA).
- Advise patient they will need to stop driving at some stage.
- GP mandatory reporting to DLA in SA and NT only.

**Patient wants to continue driving**
Are there any immediate concerns about the patient’s ability to drive? Or are cognitive impairments so severe that they are likely to impact on driving?**

**YES**
- Advise patient to stop driving until decision made by DLA.

**NO**
- Advise patient to remain driving until decision made by DLA.

**DLA fitness to drive assessment**
DLA may also request a formal driving assessment.

**Unfit to drive**
Licence suspended or cancelled.

**Fit to drive**
Patient keeps driving
Conditional licence issued, which includes periodical review of driving by DLA. May include other restrictions.

**Patient disputes decision**
 Appeals to DLA
Stops driving until result

**Patient does NOT inform DLA**
- Remind patient of obligation to inform.
- Treating doctor may notify DLA if patient chooses not to do so.
  Note: GP Mandatory reporting SA and NT.

**Patient continues to drive despite risk**
Seek further advice from DLA.

**Patient stops driving**
- Educate re: coping and getting around without a car.
- Consider counselling if patient has adjustment difficulties.

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**WHERE** there are signs of cognitive impairment but no diagnosis, undertake appropriate assessment with patient. See https://vic.fightdementia.org.au/support-and-services/health-professionals and refer the patient to a memory clinic, geriatrician or neurologist.

**RAISE** the issue of driving with all patients with dementia or mild cognitive impairment.

**DOCUMENT** in clinical notes/records: patient’s car driving status; advice or recommendations to patient; discussions pre-assessment and any concerns from patient or family.

**WHERE** family members and carers are accessible and available, consider the important role they play in supporting the driver to stop driving. Refer patients, family and carers to Alzheimer’s Australia for information and support.

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For further information and resources:
FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU/DEMENTIAANDDRIVING

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