



Today you were given, or prescribed, medicine that may affect your ability to drive safely. This sheet explains which medicines can do this, how long to wait, and how to stay safe on the road.

What is it?

Some medicines make you sleepy, slow your reactions, blur your vision or make you dizzy. These include strong pain killers, sedation given for a procedure, some allergy tablets, sleeping tablets, anti-sickness tablets and some medicines for anxiety, mood or seizures. Alcohol makes these effects much worse. You may feel fine but still be unsafe to drive.

Looking after yourself at home

- Do not drive, ride a motorbike or bicycle, or use machines for at least 24 hours after sedation or an anaesthetic.
- Arrange for an adult to take you home today, and to stay with you if you had sedation.
- Read the label of every medicine. If it warns about drowsiness, do not drive until you know how it affects you.
- Do not drink any alcohol while taking these medicines.
- Do not drive if you feel sleepy, dizzy, confused, or your vision is blurred.
- Also avoid making important decisions or signing documents for 24 hours after sedation.

Medicines

- Take your medicines only as your doctor told you or as the packet says. Do not take extra doses.
- Ask your pharmacist whether your new medicine mixes safely with your usual medicines.
- Do not stop a medicine you need just so you can drive. Talk to your doctor first.

Follow-up

- See your family doctor or health centre if you are unsure when it is safe to drive again.
- If your condition itself, such as a seizure or fainting, affects driving, ask your family doctor for advice before you drive.

Come back to the emergency department or call an ambulance straight away if:

- Being very drowsy and hard to wake up
- Slow, shallow or noisy breathing
- New confusion or unusual behaviour
- Swelling of the face, lips or tongue, or difficulty breathing after a new medicine
- Fainting or collapse
- Taking more medicine than prescribed, by mistake or on purpose



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This leaflet is general information to support the advice your doctor or nurse gave you today. It does not replace their advice. If you are worried, seek medical help.

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