

09 - References

References

924 The Maudsley® Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry CHAPTER 13 Duty of the prescriber Make sure the patient understands that their condition may impair their ability to drive. If the patient is incapable of understanding, notify the DVLA immediately. Explain to the patient that they have a legal duty to inform the DVLA. Note that the DVLA guidance specifies that patients under Section 17 of the 1983 Mental Health Act must be able to satisfy the standards of fitness for their respective conditions and be free from any effects of medication that would affect driving adversely, before resuming driving. Very few patients will fulfil these criteria. UK General Medical Council guidelines for prescribers⁶⁶ ■ ■ Patients who disagree with the diagnosis or the effect of the condition on their ability to drive should seek a second opinion and refrain from driving until this has been obtained. ■ ■ If the patient continues to drive while unfit, you should make every reasonable effort to persuade them to stop. This may include telling their next of kin if they agree you may do so. ■ ■ If they continue to drive, inform the DVLA. Tell the patient you are going to do this and write to the patient to confirm you have done so. Document the advice given clearly in the patient's notes. References

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