

Medical Conditions That May

Affect Driving



There are numerous medical conditions that can make driving difficult or dangerous, ranging from eye and vision problems to conditions that might affect judgment.

Here are a few:

Dementia can make driving unsafe. It impairs judgment, memory, and decision-making skills. While individuals might still be able to drive safely in the very early stages of dementia, their condition should be monitored closely. Dementia is nearly always progressive, and eventually driving will become too risky and dangerous.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that causes recurring seizures. It has many causes, including genetic disorders, brain injury, and stroke. As seizures cause a temporary loss of awareness or consciousness, driving with uncontrolled epilepsy could be a major safety risk. Many people with epilepsy will be subject to restricted driving privileges.

Medication and Prescription drugs may impair you're driving the same way illegal drugs do. If you are taking a prescription drug or get a prescription for a new medicine or a higher dose of a current drug, do not drive until you know what effect it has on your judgment, coordination, and reaction time. Additionally, certain medications may not impair you on their own, but if taken with a second medication or with alcohol, they may cause impairment. Consult your physician or pharmacist to know about the effects of your medications on driving and carefully read the instructions.