Driving after Stroke / TIA Pathway (Group 1 drivers—car and motorcycle)

**Stroke /TIA**

*Follow up to link with DVLA requirements*  
*After one month (longer if neurosurgery needed)*

**Reduced VA**

Ensure patient has had an up to date refraction.  
If unable to improve acuity with refractive correction to at least 6/12 (0.5 decimal or 0.3 logMAR) with both eyes open, advise patient driving not permitted and to inform DVLA. Letter to GP required.

**Diplopia**

Join diplopia using a fresnel prism to allow driving. If unable to join can occlude one eye with a patch / sector occlusion. If monocular, must show adaptation to monocular condition and demonstrate visual field is within the driving standard requirements with occlusion in place. 
If unable to join diplopia or wear patch, driving not permitted. Letter to GP required. Patient to inform DVLA. 
**Exceptional rule**—some can drive with diplopia over 6 months if adaptation has taken place.

**Impaired visual fields**

If visual field defect persists after one month, inform patient driving not permitted. Patient to inform DVLA at this point. Letter to GP required (patient not to drive at present but will monitor for any improvement). Follow up for 3-4 months (variable depending on clinical judgement). Letter to GP if condition improves—patient to inform DVLA of any change. 
**Not driving at 12 months post stroke**—request GP refers patient to DVLA at one year post stroke for assessment for consideration of exceptional cases rule.

**Exceptional cases**—driving may be permitted with non-progressive field defect if sufficient adaptation has taken place.

Where adaptation has occurred (supported by doctor / ophthalmologist) - patient allowed to reapply for licence through exceptional cases rule.

**Note**—patient must have been issued a provisional disability assessment licence by the DVLA before a driving assessment can commence. Therefore, direct referral for assessment is not permitted.

**Altered visual perception**

If visual perception altered or defect suspected, refer to occupational therapy for cognitive driving assessment. 
Advise patient not permitted to drive. Letter to GP required.

Alternatively suggest referral to local driving assessment centre following discussion with OT.

Link to DVLA guidelines: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/current-medical-guidelines-dvla-guidance-for-professionals