



Medical Cannabis and Driving Guide

Note: This is guidance to support medical cannabis patients who drive. It is not legal advice.

Key message: Patients prescribed medical cannabis can drive lawfully within the UK, but you must not drive if you feel like your ability to drive is impaired.



The Statutory Medical Defence

A statutory medical defence is a legal defense that allows you to drive with prescribed THC (the main active compound in most cannabis medications we prescribe) in your system, as long as:

- Cannabis was prescribed for medical purposes and your possession is lawful
- It's consumed safely and as the prescriber directed
- You're not driving while impaired, and waited as advised between consuming medication and driving

After you show proof of your prescription, it's up to the police and prosecutors to prove you've broken the law.

Impairment

Before we get into what impairment means, you should avoid driving if you're unsure about how the medication may affect you. For example when starting out, if your dose has increased, you've changed strain or method of consumption, you've consumed other medications or alcohol, or if you're tired or unwell.



Impairment can include feeling:

- Sleepy, dizzy or light-headed
- Confused or slower to react
- Unusually anxious or disorientated
- Unable to concentrate
- Blurred vision
- Poor coordination
- Euphoric or "high"

Please remember: your prescription cannot protect you if your driving is actually affected. Under UK law, driving while impaired by any substance is a serious criminal offence, and there is no medical exception for it.

If you are unsafe while driving, a prescription offers zero legal protection.

The Legal Limit

The specified legal limit for THC in the UK drug-driving legislation is 2 micrograms per litre of blood. This is a near zero-tolerance threshold.

A patient who uses prescribed medical cannabis as directed is likely to test above the legal THC limit even when they do not feel impaired and are not driving poorly.

But being over the legal limit DOES NOT PROVE IMPAIRMENT! And if you're not impaired, you have a statutory medical defence.



What You Should Carry

Medical cannabis is still a fairly new form of treatment in the UK, so it's useful to be prepared. We recommend you carry the following in your vehicle:

- Medication in its original pharmacy-labelled container
- A paper or digital copy of your current prescription or clinic letter
- Clinic or pharmacy contact details

Keep in mind this is **not** a legal requirement.

What You Can Do If You're Stopped By Police

- Stay Calm. Be polite, honest and transparent
- Advise them that you're a medical cannabis patient
- Offer to show your prescription or clinic letter
- Let them verify with your pharmacy or clinic if needed
- Don't argue or panic: stay co-operative

In the unlikely event you're arrested, we advise you to ask for a solicitor when booked into custody.





DVLA Considerations

Medical cannabis treatment itself does not automatically need to be reported to DVLA. However, an underlying medical condition may need to be reported if it impacts safe driving.

You should check the official DVLA website for guidance where relevant, but some of the conditions that need to be reported to the DVLA include:

Neurological & Brain Conditions: This can include epilepsy, seizures, fits, blackouts, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), or Parkinson's disease.

Mental Health Conditions: Especially those that impair your awareness, focus, stability, or safe driving.

Sleep & Alertness Disorders: Sleep apnoea or any condition causing excessive daytime sleepiness or fatigue.

Physical & Mobility Conditions: Severe arthritis or spinal injuries that affect muscle control, physical strength, or your ability to safely operate vehicle controls.