

Driving Restrictions - Cardiac

When people have a cardiac event, driving restrictions are placed on them. These restrictions are based on the 2016 Austroads "Assessing Fitness to Drive" guideline which goes through the medical standards for licences.

It is very important not to drive during this period. Reasons why it may not be safe for you to drive include:

- Reactions like dizziness to medications
- Potential to pass out without warning or have a cardiac arrest/ heart rhythm problem
- Pressure on wounds like chest wounds after heart surgery or pacemaker sites

People who drive when instructed not to also run the risk of not being covered for insurance purposes.

You need to clarify with your cardiologist what non-driving period applies to you. Occasionally your cardiologist will need to perform further tests to ensure you are safe to drive.

Cardiac Event/ Procedure	Minimum non driving period Private Vehicles	Minimum non driving period Commercial Vehicles
Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI / Heart attack)	2 weeks	4 weeks
Angioplasty (Balloon and stent)	2 days	4 weeks
Cardiac Arrest	6 months (Less if occurred within 48 hours of an AMI)	6 months
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)	4 weeks	3 months
Valve Repair/ Replacement Including Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)	4 weeks	3 months
Heart / Lung Transplant	6 weeks	3 months
Permanent Pacemaker Insertion (PPM)	2 weeks	4 weeks
Cardiac Defibrillator Insertion	6 months (after cardiac arrest) 2 weeks (if prophylaxis)	N/A
Cardiac Defibrillator Shock (Associated with symptoms of haemodynamic compromise)	2 weeks	N/A
Syncope (Due to cardiovascular causes)	4 weeks	3 months
Aneurysm repair	4 weeks	3 months

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