

Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm (AAA) and travel

What are the implications for driving?

The [DVLA policy on AAA's](#) states that:

- The DVLA must be informed if the aneurysm grows to 6.0 cm and above
- Your license will be suspended if the aneurysm grows to 6.5 cm
- Your license will be reinstated after the aneurysm has been successfully treated
- If you need to tell the DVLA, fill in [form H1](#) and send it to the address on the form.

The policy on bus, coach and lorry drivers states that:

- The DVLA must be informed if you have an aneurysm of any size
- Your license will be suspended if the aneurysm grows to 5.5 cm
- Your license will be reinstated after the aneurysm has been successfully treated
- Fill in [form VOCH1](#) and [form B1V](#) and send them to the DVLA. The address is on each form.

The DVLA policy does not affect car drivers with small or medium aneurysms (3.0-5.4cm) who are part of the aneurysm surveillance program.

Ask your doctor or consultant if you're not sure.

You can be fined up to £1,000 if you don't tell the DVLA about a medical condition that affects your driving. You may be prosecuted if you're involved in an accident as a result.

What are the implications for air travel and travel insurance?

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has been advised that small AAAs are no more likely to rupture at altitude than on the ground, and it is not aware of any airlines operating a standing rule about refusing patients with this condition.

The ABI is also unaware of any travel insurance policies that contain a specific exclusion for small AAAs as part of their standard wording.

If an applicant for travel insurance declares an AAA, the ABI understands that the medical screening process does not ask the diameter of the aneurysm, because to do so would be to expect a degree of medical knowledge on the part of the patient that they might not have.

Patients are instead asked whether or not they have had definitive treatment, such as surgery, and if so, when. They are also asked if they are on a waiting list for such treatment and if they have any other related cardiovascular diseases.

The ABI suggests that anyone with an AAA should declare the condition during the travel insurance application process, or when it has been diagnosed, if they have an existing travel policy.

Where an applicant declares an AAA, they may be charged an additional premium or have the condition excluded from cover.

Points of contact:

Vascular Nurses:

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Tel: 01603 28784 or 01603 647972 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

Vascular Surgeons (Secretaries):

Miss FJ Meyer	01603 287136
Mr M P Armon	01603 287552
Mr D R Morrow	01603 286442
Mr R E Brightwell	01603 287394
Mr D S Delbridge	01603 286434
Mr P Bennett	01603 286263
Mr W Al-Jundi	01603 287552
Prof P Stather	01603 647289

For further information and support:

Vascular Surgical Society of Great Britain and Ireland
Tel: 020 74309235

Web address: www.vascularsociety.org.uk

Circulation Foundation
Tel: 020 7304 4779

Web address: www.circulationfoundation.org.uk

Smoke Free Norfolk

For stop smoking services across Norfolk – including Great Yarmouth and Gorleston
0800 0854 113 or email ecch.stopsmoking@nhs.net

For Suffolk contact One Life Suffolk (including Lowestoft)

Quit 51 on 0800 622 6968.

NHS 111 service

DVLA

Web address www.gov.uk

