

## Penalties

Misuse of medicinal drugs, such as taking an excessive dose, can result in major impairment.

Police have the power to require drivers they suspect are impaired by drugs to undertake drug testing.

The penalties for driving while impaired by drugs include:

- ➔ \$2,200 fine.
- ➔ Licence disqualification.
- ➔ Up to 9 months in jail.

This brochure was produced with the support of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch).



## Driving and medicines



For further enquiries:



[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

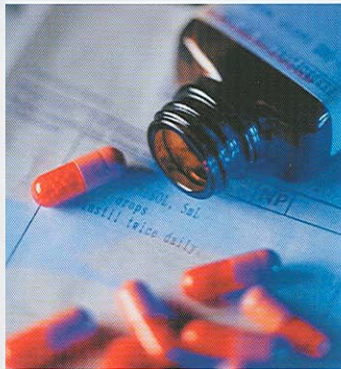


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Driving a motor vehicle is a complex task that requires good coordination and mental alertness.

Many prescription and non-prescription medicines affect your ability to drive safely.

Drugs can affect not only your skills, such as hazard perception, but your moods and behaviour as well, all of which are essential to safe driving.

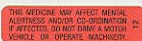
Taking a number of different medicines may have an even greater effect on your ability to drive safely.

### Warning labels

Non-prescription medicines that can affect your driving will carry a warning message on the packaging.

Prescription medicines that can affect driving also carry a warning label.

When you receive medication, always look for one of these warning labels.



Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the symptoms that you can expect and whether they are likely to be temporary or long-term. A new medicine may affect you for a few days, so don't drive until your body adjusts.

### Alcohol

When some medicines are combined with alcohol, driver impairment and the risk of having a serious accident greatly increase.

### Are you affected?

Listed below are some effects of prescription and over the counter drugs that make it unsafe to drive.

- Drowsiness.
- Blurred vision.
- Feeling unsteady or dizzy.
- Poor concentration.
- Lowered alertness.
- Slower reaction times.
- Nervousness.
- Feeling confused.
- Feeling sick.
- Feeling aggressive.

### Some medicines that may affect your driving

- Antidepressants.
- Antihistamines.
- Anxiety treatment.
- Arthritis treatment.
- Blood pressure treatment.
- Cough and cold relief medication.
- Diabetes treatment.
- Epilepsy treatment.
- Heart conditions treatment.
- Mental disorders treatment.
- Opioid substitution treatment.
- Pain relief medicines.
- Sleeping tablets.
- Stomach upset treatment.
- Travel sickness prevention.
- Some antibiotics.



### Important Dos and Don'ts

#### Do

- Do look for and follow instructions on warning labels.
- Do ask your pharmacist or doctor to explain anything you do not understand.
- Do ask for and read the Consumer Medicines Information leaflet that is available for most prescription medicines.
- Do arrange another form of transport. Call a cab, ask a friend or relative for help or use public transport.

#### Don't

- Don't drive unless you are fit to do so.
- Don't stop taking your prescribed medication if your driving is affected. Instead, stop driving and discuss possible alternative medicines with your doctor.
- Don't take more or less than the prescribed dose unless advised by your doctor.
- Don't consume alcohol with your medications.
- Don't take another person's medicine.
- Don't drive if you have missed a dose of medicine that controls symptoms which can affect your driving.