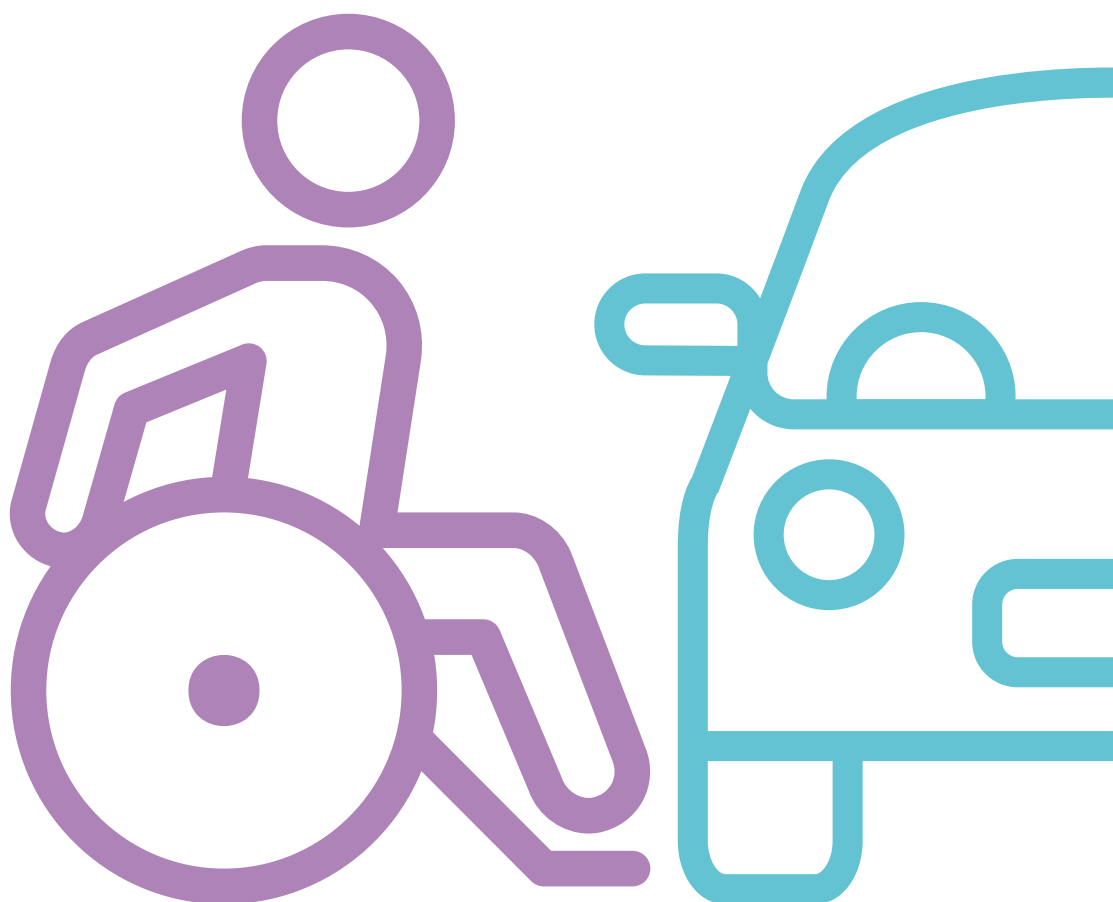


SBH Scotland. There for the journey.

Spina Bifida
Hydrocephalus
Scotland



Driving or Choosing a Car





Driving and spina bifida or hydrocephalus

Having a medical condition or disability does not necessarily mean you cannot or will not be allowed to drive. Whether you are a new or an experienced driver, you must let the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) know about any medical condition or disability that may affect your driving. You must also notify them if your condition has become worse.



How do I apply for a license?

The usual minimum age for driving cars is 17, but if you receive a higher rate mobility allowance, you can learn to drive at 16.

First of all, you will need to have an assessment carried out at a Driving Assessment Centre and referral should be made through your GP.

All new drivers should have professional driving lessons and disabled learner drivers may want to look for instructors who have specialist knowledge of their needs. You should book your theory test when you have a thorough knowledge of the Highway Code and you must pass the theory test before you can book the practical test.



What should I look for when choosing a car?

When choosing your vehicle, you should consider your needs now and for the next few years. You should test drive any of the vehicles and if you are not going to be the driver, take a test drive as a passenger.

Points to consider:

- If you have a wheelchair or other equipment, make sure there is enough space for them both in the vehicle and the boot
- Check the driving position and ensure the acceleration and brake controls are suitable
- Makes sure the sill height and door width are adequate
- Can the vehicle be adapted to suit your needs. For an independent assessment of your adaptation needs contact Driving Mobility by visiting www.drivingmobility.org.uk

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What payment options are available to me?

If you are in receipt of the high rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or enhanced mobility through a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) you could use this to finance your mobility needs. Some manufacturers also allow discounts to disabled people when purchasing a new car.

If you receive the high rate of the mobility component of DLA or receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP the Motability Scheme can help you with leasing or buying a car. Even if you do not drive yourself you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers. You can also apply on behalf of a child aged three or over who is in receipt of the high rate mobility component of DLA.



Top Tips!



1) If using your own car or on Motability you can apply for Road Tax Exemption and a Blue Badge. Contact SBH Scotland for more information on 03455 211 300 or email support@sbhscotland.org.uk



2) If you are already a Motability Scheme customer you can apply for help with the cost of up to 40 hours of driving lessons. For more information call Motability on 0300 456 4566



If you have questions or would like further information, please call the **SBH Scotland Helpline** on **03455 211 300** or email support@sbhscotland.org.uk
For general enquiries call **03455 211 811** or visit www.sbhscotland.org.uk

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to replace or be relied on as medical or professional advice. Contact us if you require this publication in another format or language.

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