

What is it?

SAGE (Safer Driving with Age) is a unique programme designed to provide older drivers with the support, guidance and coaching necessary to continue driving for as long as it is safe to do so.

We know that we gain wisdom and experience as we mature, but we can also be unaware of some of the bad habits we pick up during many years of driving.

Growing older involves many (perhaps unwelcome) physical changes, and some people do not have the good health and mobility that they had when they were young.

These facts can make driving more stressful and less enjoyable. If you have a partner and you can both drive, you may wish to share the driving. This will keep you both in practice and, if one of you has to give up driving, the other will still be confident enough to drive.

The SAGE process looks at these changes in a positive light, by helping older drivers adapt their driving to overcome them.

Who is it for?

The course is aimed at improving the safety of older drivers, but it can be adapted to suit drivers of any age, or for those returning to driving after a period of illness.

How does it work?

Health & Medication - A medication review is undertaken to determine if any medicines being taken currently are likely to affect your driving. A health review is also needed, to ensure that any medical problems that may reduce your ability to drive safely have been considered. Your own practice nurse or GP can do both these reviews, and a simple form is provided to confirm that there are no medications being taken or medical conditions known to exist that may make driving dangerous or illegal.

Vision is vital to safe driving, and regular eye examinations are important for all drivers. You should have had an eye examination less than a year before a SAGE assessment and, if you have a medical condition that has affected your field of view, you should ask your doctor to arrange a 'field test'. Your ability to read a number plate at 67 feet (a legal requirement for all drivers) will be checked at the start of the assessed drive.

The driving assessment is definitely not a test: it is a drive in your own car, with an experienced driving assessor, from your own home on roads you are familiar with. You will be able to talk about your performance as the drive progresses, and you will be given a confidential written report at the end of the drive.

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You will be better informed once you have completed the programmed, and hopefully more confident about your driving.

Because SAGE is intended to be a three-stage process, it is best if you ask your GP or practice nurse if they are willing to arrange for you to have a health and medication review. They may be able to complete the review form simply by reference to your medical notes, or they may ask you to see the practice nurse. If you are under the care of a consultant, you can ask them to refer you to SAGE.

Fitness to Drive - The DVLA is legally responsible for deciding if a person is medically unfit to drive, so they need to know when driving licence holders have a condition which may, now or in the future, affect their safety as a driver.

When does it happen?

One of our trained assessors will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time for your driver assessment. Please make sure you have your drivers licence, vehicle insurance and MOT certificate available.

How much does it cost?

Unfortunately the SAGE assessment cannot be provided free, so a charge is made to cover the costs of the practical drive and administering the scheme. The current cost is £22.00 for a 1-hour assessment, and this information is quoted on the application form.

Where do I attend?

One of our trained assessors will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time for your driver assessment.

Success!

The award winning SAGE Scheme was the focus of part of a BBC 1 TV documentary filmed in the Cotswolds in December 2008.

