



**ARTHROPLASTY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA POSITION  
STATEMENT ON DRIVING AFTER TOTAL HIP AND KNEE  
REPLACEMENT SURGERY**

**October 2016**

The Arthroplasty society acknowledges that driving is an important part of people's lives and day-to-day activities. A patient should not return to driving after a hip or knee replacement until they can safely perform an "emergency stop" and they no longer require regular narcotic analgesia.

The ability to perform an emergency stop varies between patients, but in most cases occurs between 4 and 6 weeks following a right leg hip or knee replacement.

Licensing authorities do not specify specific driving restrictions after hip or knee replacement and require patients to seek advice directly from their treating surgeon as to when it is safe for them to drive.

If you have concerns regarding your ability to drive, clarification should be obtained from your treating surgeon.