

Blue Badge eligibility for applicants with Non Visible (Hidden) Disabilities

Whilst having any particular diagnosed condition does not automatically make you eligible or ineligible for a Blue Badge, there are some conditions which we expect will regularly come up under the new Department for Transport Blue Badge Eligibility Guidance for Non Visible (Hidden) Disabilities.

We have therefore put together some information regarding these conditions, and how an applicant who has one of these may qualify for a Blue Badge.

Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) / Autism

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Challenging behaviour
- Self-harm
- Physical challenging behaviour/inappropriate biting, spitting, hitting, hair pulling, aggression
- Over-sensitivity or under sensitivity to sensory stimuli e.g. noisy environments, crowds,
- 'Melt downs' gets 'overwhelmed'
- Lack of safety awareness in traffic/busy environments
- Refusal to walk/drops to the floor
- Wandering off
- Aggression to others, especially members of the public
- Does not obey commands/prompts, ignores commands, poor communication skills/easily losing patience
- Anxiety – difficulty concentrating

ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Unable to sit still, especially in calm or quiet surroundings
- Constant fidgeting
- Being unable to concentrate on tasks
- Excessive physical movement
- Being unable to wait their turn
- Acting without thinking
- Little or no sense of danger

Learning Disabilities

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Challenging behaviour
Triggers - this could be in the environment, or with certain people

- Behaviour can include tantrums, hitting or kicking other people, throwing things or self-harm

Dementia

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Confusion, disorientation and inattention
- Anxiety/psychological distress when in unfamiliar surroundings
- Psychosis
- Aggression
- Wanders off
- Does not understand or obey verbal commands or prompts
- Personality changes – inappropriate social behavior and apathy, visual and auditory hallucinations

Anxiety

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Various types of anxiety disorders that can cause 'Very considerable psychological distress' when walking/undertaking a journey, examples are:
 - Social anxiety disorder
 - Panic attacks
 - Post-traumatic stress (PTSD)
 - Specific phobias e.g. claustrophobia (overwhelming/incapacitating fear of specific object, place, situation or feeling)
- Social isolation
- Avoidance of particular situations – like going out/crowds/noisy busy environments
- Inattention/concentration problems caused by high levels of anxiety – possible safety risk when walking/undertaking a journey

Bipolar disorder

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Manic/hypo mania episodes (feeling high)
- Depressive episode (feeling low)
- Psychotic symptoms
- Aggressive/rude
- Lack of concentration
- Easily distracted
- Irritable/agitated
- Taking serious risks with safety
- Losing social inhibitions
- Psychosis
- Hallucinations/hearing voices

Schizophrenia

Behaviours which may be considered:

- Paranoia
- Can become upset, confused, distrusting or suspicious of other people or particular groups – a possible safety risk to others
- Hallucinations and delusions
- Disorganised thinking and speech
- Visual perception dysfunction
- Inattention -possible risk to safety
- Movement disorder

Some additional factors that will be considered by the assessor for all conditions and applications under Non Visible (Hidden) Disabilities applications:

- Severity of the condition
- Other medical conditions which may also have an effect, or which may exacerbate behaviours
- Severity of behavioural problems / psychological distress and frequency of occurrence
- Treatment / therapy in place
- Support networks and services in place
- Coping strategies