Driving and Prescription Drugs (Pharmaceuticals)
**JBRT Classroom Resources**

- JBRT Curriculum Relevance
- Unit 1 - Consequences of High Risk Driving Behaviours
- **Unit 2 - Driving and Prescription Drugs (Pharmaceuticals)**
  - Unit 3 - Dealing with Grief
  - Unit 4 - Tragic Consequences of Driver Fatigue
  - Unit 5 - Developing Cognitive Reasoning Skills for Personal Behaviour Assessment
- Teacher Awareness Kit
- Student Awareness Kit
- Teacher Multimedia Kit
- Student Multimedia Kit
Driving and Prescription Drugs (Pharmaceuticals)

DIANNE’S STORY

Dianne’s Story is a short film about the lasting impact of a road crash death caused by a woman driving under the influence of a legally prescribed drug.

Dianne tells the story of her father, who dies when his car is involved in a collision caused by a nurse who has fallen asleep at the wheel after taking prescribed morphine. The woman was charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

This short clip features a series of photographs overlaid with Dianne’s commentary. The photos include loving images of Dianne’s father with his family, a newspaper article about the crash, photos of Dianne’s son and daughter, and photos of boxes of prescribed medications and photos of the crash scene.

Dianne asks the question: “At what point are people responsible for their own actions?”

Consider the range of factors contributing to how we learn to be responsible. Suggest when individuals should start to become responsible for their actions?

Discuss types of prescription medication that can alter our behaviour and the risks involved in taking such prescription medication. For further information refer to the Teachers’ Awareness Kit.

Investigate readily available over the counter medications that can be purchased without prescription and which can cause drowsiness.

Analyse influences on healthy responsible decision making.
STUDENT TASKS

Junior Students

In the clip Dianne tells us that just because a medicine is legally prescribed and readily available at the chemist, unlike an illicit drug, it doesn’t mean we shouldn’t think about its side effects and how pharmaceuticals can affect our ability to concentrate.

Task 1:
Consider how Dianne feels about the sudden death of her father? Consider whether Dianne would feel more empathy toward the nurse if the crash was caused by difficult conditions such as the sun suddenly blinding her vision rather than irresponsible driving whilst under the influence of licit drugs. Is it possible Dianne could feel differently if someone who had not taken any medications and was sober caused her father’s death? Define the word empathy.

Imagine the nurse who caused the sudden death of Dianne’s father was completely drug free, and that the crash still took place because her car slid out of control on a slippery road. Would Dianne’s story be different? Explain how Dianne might tell her story if this were the case.

Task 2:
In the clip Dianne tells us her father never got to meet his granddaughter. Watch the clip again and consider why Dianne wanted to make the film.

Imagine you are Dianne. Write a 150 word letter to the editor of the local paper. In the letter Dianne will talk about the short film she made for the Journey Beyond Road Trauma website and why she felt it was so important to tell her story.
STUDENT TASKS

Senior Students

Dianne’s father was killed when a nurse fell asleep at the wheel of her car under the influence of a prescribed drug. Dianne speaks about “irony” when she recounts the circumstances of her father’s death. She asks at what point do people need to be responsible for their own actions?

Task 1:
Write a 200 word essay giving three examples of occasions and/or environments where prescription drugs can alter our behaviour.

Conclude by suggesting how we can individually control this vulnerability responsibly.

In the clip Dianne refers to the defence lawyer who said it was okay for the woman who caused the crash to be driving, as the drug she was taking was prescription medication not an illicit drug. Yet the woman who caused the crash was charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

However, the penalty was perhaps not as severe as it would have been if she had been taking an illicit drug or under the influence of alcohol. What do you think about this? Is this a fair judgement in your opinion?

Task 2:
Discuss with classmates. Then, write an argumentative essay to the ‘judge’ outlining your opinion of the pros and cons of making it illegal to drive under the influence of prescribed medications.
MULTIMEDIA ACTIVITY

Journey Beyond Road Trauma is a website where people affected by road crashes can post tributes, videos, tell their stories, campaign for road safety and connect with others affected by road trauma.

Visit the Journey Beyond Road Trauma website. Click on Connect and view the videos posted by members of the community in tribute to loved ones killed or seriously injured by road crashes.

Imagine you are a website reviewer. Write a 200 word article talking about the role of the website. Describe how sharing stories about road trauma can help educate people about safer driving practices.

Videos

Featured videos

- **Glory**
  - A short Documentary Made By Amy Rynan, Lucy Gibbs, etc.