

Artvigil: Cost Analysis and Pricing - in the UK

Artvigil introduction: function and FDA clearance

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The opening and Brief Recap

Artvigil is a branded preparation containing armodafinil, a wakefulness-promoting medication used in adults with significant daytime sleepiness caused by particular sleep disorders. It helps maintain alertness but does not treat the root sleep disorder. In obstructive sleep apnea, for example, armodafinil can be prescribed for residual sleepiness after primary therapies such as continuous positive airway pressure have been optimised.

Main takeaways at a glance are listed below. For specific topics use the links in the navigation menu or the page anchors.

- Predominant indicators: narcolepsy, residual sleepiness with treated obstructive sleep apnea, and shift work sleep disorder
- Active substance: armodafinil
- Typical tablet strength offered commercially: 150 mg film-coated tablets

Inspect the quality of the back and forth of communications matters for trust. at [Drug the dynamic of social contact management](#) along with the accompanying statutory notes at the end [Law and buying guidance in the United Kingdom](#).

Fast reference

- Usually taken once a day at about the same time
- Food is optional; can be taken with or without a meal
- For shift work disorder, schedule the dose about one hour before the shift
- For the duration of armodafinil use and for one month after cessation, rely on non hormonal contraception
- Avoid driving or operating complex machinery until you know how the medicine affects you
- See sections on i did not take a doses and overdose case for immediate action advice

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Who could benefit from Artvigil?

Clinicians may prescribe armodafinil to adults who present with disabling daytime sleepiness due to:

- Narcolepsy: a condition causing sudden sleep attacks
- Obstructive sleep apnea where excessive sleepiness persists despite effective primary treatment such as CPAP
- Shift work sleep disorder that leads to impaired alertness during scheduled work hours

Artvigil is not indicated for healthy individuals who want to delay sleep for performance reasons. For specific dosing instructions and notes on safety see [How to administer Artvigil](#).

Artvigil dosing and usage

Stick to the guidelines set by your prescriber. Do not alter the dose, timing, or frequency without medical advice.

- Administration: one dose per day, taken consistently at the same time each day
- Narcolepsy or obstructive sleep apnea (adults): typical range 150 mg to 250 mg taken in the morning
- Shift work sleep disorder (adults): 150 mg approximately one hour before the start of the shift

Patients with impaired liver function, reduced kidney function, or frailty may require a lower starting dose and closer the act of monitoring. Your prescriber should reassess benefit and tolerability within the first few weeks and continue treatment only if the clinical benefit persists.

If morning dosing causes insomnia, speak to your prescriber rather than taking an extra dose later in the day.

Review [Injury prevention measures](#) and [Contratips to use in these settings and cautionary notes](#) before you begin therapy.

Safety instructions

Before you set out armodafinil, tell your doctor or pharmacist about all medical conditions and every medicine, supplement, or herbal product you use. Extra caution is needed in people with:

- Cardiovascular conditions such as hypertension, prior myocardial infarction, valve disease, or mitral valve prolapse
- Current or past psychiatric disorders including anxiety, depression, mania, or psychosis
- Diminished liver or kidney function
- History of substance misuse or alcohol use disorder

Discuss pregnancy plans and breastfeeding. Armodafinil can reduce the effectiveness of many hormonal contraceptives; a reliable non-hormonal method should be used during treatment and for one month after the last dose.

Until you know how Artvigil affects alertness, avoid driving, cycling, or operating machinery. Even if you are receiving treatment for a sleep disorder, remain cautious when performing safety-sensitive tasks.

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Where use is contraindicated together with essential cautions

- Do not take armodafinil if you have had a serious rash or allergic reaction to armodafinil, modafinil, or any ingredient in the tablet
- Liquor and spirits should be avoided because its effects with armodafinil are unpredictable and may worsen secondary consequences
- Do not intentionally restrict sleep or make major changes to your sleep schedule without medical advice

For a list of common and severe unwanted after effects see [Unwanted events](#).

Negative responses and when to seek help

Many people experience mild possible side effects that diminish as the body adjusts. Common response tendencies include:

- Throbbing head pain
- Nausea
- Cannot fall asleep easily or frequent awakenings
- Unsteadiness

Stop the medicine and seek urgent medical attention if you develop signs of a severe reaction. Contact NHS 111 or call 999 in an emergency for:

- Skin reactions such as rash, blistering, peeling, or mouth sores
- Fever, sore throat, or red painful eyes
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat, or lymph nodes

- Difficulty breathing, hoarseness, or swallowing problems
- Jaundice, dark urine, leg swelling, or flu-like symptoms suggesting liver involvement

Severe skin reactions typically emerge within the first one to five weeks of treatment. Discontinue armodafinil at the first sign of any rash unless a healthcare professional confirms an allergic contingency or other cause.

Social exchanges of medications

Armodafinil affects liver enzymes and can change the concentrations or effects of other drugs. Major interactions include:

- CYP3A4 inducers (for example, carbamazepine, rifampicin, *Hypericum perforatum* plant) may lower armodafinil levels and reduce effectiveness
- CYP3A4 or CYP3A5 inhibitors (for example, ketoconazole, itraconazole) can raise armodafinil exposure
- CYP2C19 substrates (for example, omeprazole, diazepam, propranolol, phenytoin) may have altered effects and might require ongoing monitoring or dose changes
- Hormonal contraceptives including combined pills, patches, rings, implants and some IUDs may be less effective; use non-hormonal contraception during treatment and for one month after stopping
- Warfarin represents an anticoagulant option.: performance monitoring of INR may be necessary when starting or stopping armodafinil
- Other central nervous system active agents (for example SSRIs, SNRIs, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, stimulants): effects can change and full medication lists should be reviewed

Always provide your clinician and pharmacist with a complete list of prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal medicines.

For information on forgetting a dose see [Tablet advice missed](#).

Tablet dosage and dosing directions missed

If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember only if you still expect to be awake for many hours afterwards. If it is late in the day or close to bedtime, skip the dose if it was not taken and take the next tablet at the usual time. Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If an overdose on medicine should happen

If someone has taken too much armodafinil, seek immediate medical help. Attend the nearest emergency department or call 999. Possible overdose effects include:

- Agitation, restlessness, or severe insomnia
- States of confusion, disorientation, or hallucinations
- Nausea or diarrhoea related symptoms
- Chest pain, breathing problems, or abnormal heart rate
- Marked anxiety or unusual excitability

Advice on archived data is kept in long term storage.

Keep tablets at room temperature, approximately 20 to 25 C (68 to 77 F), away from moisture and heat. Store in the original packaging and keep out of sight and reach of children.

Alternative options and price in the UK

There are several pharmacological and non-pharmacological options for treating excessive daytime sleepiness. Prices below are approximate private costs for a one-month supply in Great Britain and will vary between pharmacies, doses, and whether treatment is provided via the NHS or privately.

- Modafinil (generic, and brand name Provigil): a common substitute choice. Typical private costs for 30 x 100 mg range from about 25 to 60 GBP; branded Provigil may cost around 80 to 120 GBP for 30 tablets.
- Armodafinil products (for example Nuvigil; Artvigil is generally unlicensed in the UK): often available only via named-patient import with a prescription. Typical private prices for 30 x 150 mg are approximately 35 to 90 GBP, sometimes higher depending on supply.

- Solriamfetol (Sunosi): licensed for excessive sleepiness in obstructive sleep apnea and narcolepsy. Private monthly costs often fall in the 150 to 250 GBP range depending on dose.
- Pitolisant (Wakix): a histamine H3 receptor antagonist/inverse agonist for narcolepsy; private costs are typically higher, often 200 to 500 GBP or more per month.
- Sodium oxybate or low-sodium oxybate (Xyrem, Xywav): used for narcolepsy with cataplexy and to improve nocturnal sleep; private costs can be very high, frequently in four figures per month and usually started by specialists.
- Non-drug approaches: optimising CPAP settings, mandibular advancement devices, sleep hygiene, timed naps and behavioural measures remain first-line for obstructive causes where appropriate.

On the NHS, access and funding depend on local formularies and clinical criteria; prescription charges or exemptions apply. Private prescribers and pharmacies set their prices independently—confirm costs with a UK-registered pharmacy before purchasing.

For legal risk considerations when importing or buying online, see [UK buying guidance and rules under statutory authority](#).

UK regulatory rules and purchasing guidance

- Prescription status: both modafinil and armodafinil are prescription-only medicines in the UK. Supplying them without a valid prescription is unlawful.
- Licensing: modafinil is licensed in the UK for narcolepsy. Many armodafinil brands, including Artvigil, are not UK-licensed and may be available only via specialist supply routes or named-patient importation with a valid prescription.
- When buying online: use UK-registered services. A legitimate supplier will normally:
 - Be a pharmacy registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
 - Use a UK-registered prescriber who assesses your health before issuing a prescription
 - Display the MHRA distance selling logo and provide clear contact and business details
- Import for personal use: the MHRA may allow limited personal importation if the medicine is for your own use and you hold a valid prescription. Unlicensed or suspicious parcels may be seized by authorities.

- Driving: it is illegal to drive while impaired by sleepiness or medication. People with narcolepsy or other sleep disorders may need to notify the DVLA depending on diagnosis and symptom control. Do not drive until you know how armodafinil affects you.
- Sporting restrictions: modafinil and armodafinil are banned in competition under the World Anti-Doping Code. UK athletes should consult UK Anti-Doping and consider a Therapeutic Use Exemption when the need arises.

If in doubt about supply, safety, or legality, consult your GP, a sleep service specialist, or a GPhC-registered pharmacist. For urgent medical advice out of hours call NHS 111.

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