Xadago access in Egypt

How Egyptian patients access safinamide for Parkinson disease motor fluctuations and OFF episodes via the EDA named-patient pathway.

Last reviewed 2026-05-12 by Reserve Meds clinical and regulatory team. This page combines the Egypt country research module with the Xadago drug module to describe the path families actually walk.

Quick orientation

Xadago (safinamide) is a selective, reversible monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B) inhibitor developed by Newron Pharmaceuticals and marketed in the United States by US WorldMeds. The US Food and Drug Administration approved Xadago in March 2017 as adjunctive treatment to levodopa/carbidopa in patients with Parkinson disease experiencing OFF episodes. It is dosed orally once daily, starting at 50 mg and increasing to 100 mg after two weeks based on individual response and tolerability. For an Egyptian patient with Parkinson disease on levodopa whose motor fluctuations are not adequately controlled with their current regimen, Xadago is an adjunctive option that targets dopamine metabolism and glutamate release. Reserved for you.

Why this drug is hard to source in Egypt

Xadago is approximately not registered with the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) in our review. The drug occupies a comparatively small niche in the Parkinson disease therapeutic landscape, with alternative MAO-B inhibitors (rasagiline, selegiline) and other adjunctive therapies more widely available regionally. Two patterns produce the access gap. First, registration status. Xadago is FDA-approved and used in selected international markets but has not been registered through EDA at scale. The treating neurologist may select safinamide specifically based on its dual mechanism (MAO-B inhibition plus glutamate modulation) or based on patient-specific tolerability of alternatives. Second, currency cost. Safinamide runs approximately USD 1,200 to 1,500 per month at US wholesale acquisition cost at the 100 mg dose, putting annual therapy cost in the USD 14,000 to 18,000 range. With the Egyptian pound near 52 to 53 per US dollar in May 2026, the EGP-denominated bill has roughly tripled since early 2022.

Where the treating neurologist determines that safinamide is the appropriate adjunct, the EDA named-patient pathway is the route.

The EDA named-patient pathway

The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), established by Law No. 151 of 2019, permits the importation of medicines for a specific patient where no equivalent registered product is available locally, or where the available quantity of an equivalent registered product cannot meet the patient's clinical need. For a Xadago case, the dispensing institution, typically a private specialty hospital pharmacy, a university hospital neurology import desk, or a licensed Cairo-based specialty importer, files with EDA.

The standard application package includes a clinical justification letter from the treating physician on hospital letterhead with hospital stamp, stating the diagnosis (idiopathic Parkinson disease with documented motor fluctuations and OFF episodes), the current levodopa-carbidopa regimen with dose and dosing intervals, the prior or current adjunctive therapy history (other MAO-B inhibitors such as rasagiline or selegiline, COMT inhibitors, dopamine agonists, amantadine where applicable), the documented response and tolerability profile, and the rationale for safinamide specifically including its dual mechanism; a recent prescription specifying brand name (Xadago), generic name (safinamide), strength (50 mg or 100 mg tablets), quantity for the titration schedule; the patient's national ID or passport copy; the treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership number and Ministry of Health licence reference; product details including manufacturers (Newron Pharmaceuticals with US WorldMeds in the United States); the destination dispensing facility licence; and the chain-of-custody plan for the room-temperature shipment to Cairo International Airport.

Real costs in EGP and USD

Reserve Meds quotes in USD and accepts USD wire transfers. The US wholesale acquisition cost for Xadago runs approximately USD 1,200 to 1,500 per month at the 100 mg dose. Annual cost runs approximately USD 14,000 to 18,000 for ongoing therapy. International logistics from the US source to Cairo for a room-temperature oral tablet shipment typically run USD 150 to 500 per shipment depending on volume and route, with shipments timed to dispensing cycles. Regulatory documentation handling on the Egyptian side varies by dispensing facility, and the Reserve Meds concierge fee is itemized on every firm quote and is never bundled.

The transparent USD quote insulates the family from intra-case EGP movement. We do not perform currency conversion. Many Egyptian families coordinate USD funds through relatives in the Gulf, the UK, or North America.

Timing, what to expect

Routine EDA personal-import authorisations for neurology cases typically process in 15 to 30 business days from submission of a complete package. Complex submissions or first-time files for a particular dispensing facility can extend to 8 to 12 weeks. Once authorisation comes through, US-side sourcing, manufacturer release, and shipment from the US to Cairo typically run 2 to 4 weeks. For an established patient on ongoing therapy, the practical rhythm is a continuous cycle with the EDA permit covering a defined quantity and time window, and the cycle resets on the next approval. Reserve Meds frames Parkinson disease cases as multi-year engagements.

What your physician needs

The treating physician on a Xadago case in Egypt is a neurologist, ideally with movement disorder experience. The clinical justification letter typically addresses the Parkinson disease diagnosis (idiopathic, with documented duration and clinical course), the current motor and non-motor symptom profile, the documented OFF-episode pattern using validated diary tools where applicable, the current levodopa-carbidopa regimen with specific doses and intervals, the prior adjunctive therapy outcomes, and the rationale for safinamide. The letter typically references the supporting clinical trial evidence including the SETTLE and Study 016 motor fluctuation trials.

The treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership and active Ministry of Health licence are the cornerstone. The dispensing facility, whether Cairo University Hospitals (Kasr Al Ainy), Ain Shams University Hospitals, or a private specialty hospital in the Cleopatra group, Dar Al Fouad, or As-Salam International, must hold a current pharmaceutical establishment licence. Reserve Meds supplies the physician-facing documentation kit. Filing remains with the dispensing facility.

UPA, Universal Health Insurance, and the private-pay context

Egypt's Universal Health Insurance (UHI) system, launched under Law No. 2 of 2018 and operated by the Universal Health Insurance Authority (UHIA), is in mid-rollout across six geographic clusters through 2032. For named-patient Xadago imports in 2026, UHIA coverage is not the funding path for most patients in most governorates. Cash-pay or private insurance reimbursement is the practical funding path.

The Unified Procurement Authority (UPA), Egypt's centralised public-sector medicines procurement agency, handles bulk purchasing for public hospitals. Xadago is not approximately in the UPA-procured catalogue in our review, and the named-patient

framework is the route for patients where the treating neurologist has selected safinamide specifically. Bupa Egypt, AXA Egypt, MetLife Egypt, Allianz Egypt, Misr Insurance, and other carriers assess Parkinson disease therapy claims case by case based on diagnosis, the documented step-up ladder, and plan terms. We do not promise coverage from any insurer.

Pharmacovigilance and cold-chain

Xadago tablets are stored at room temperature, which simplifies the chain-of-custody documentation compared to refrigerated biologics. The shipment plan in the EDA submission identifies the freight forwarder, the expected port of entry (typically Cairo International Airport), and the receiving facility's confirmation of secure storage. Reserve Meds confirms the receiving facility's confirmation before initiating shipment.

Egypt operates an active national pharmacovigilance system through the Egyptian Pharmacovigilance Center (EPVC), part of EDA. The treating physician and dispensing pharmacy retain pharmacovigilance responsibility for the duration of therapy, including adverse drug reaction reporting through EPVC using Yellow Card or CIOMS forms. Safinamide carries warnings related to hypertension, serotonin syndrome with concomitant serotonergic medications, falling asleep during activities of daily living, dyskinesia, retinal degeneration risk, and impulse control disorders; the treating team monitors accordingly and reviews concomitant medications. Reserve Meds includes the EPVC reference contacts in the physician documentation kit.

Common questions about Xadago in Egypt

What about other MAO-B inhibitors, rasagiline (Azilect) or selegiline? Rasagiline and selegiline are alternative MAO-B inhibitors used in Parkinson disease. Safinamide is distinguished by its dual mechanism (MAO-B inhibition plus glutamate release modulation) and its specific motor-fluctuation indication. The clinical choice rests with the treating neurologist.

Will my insurance cover this? Bupa Egypt, AXA Egypt, MetLife Egypt, Allianz Egypt, Misr Insurance, and other carriers assess Parkinson disease therapy claims case by case. We do not promise coverage. We supply the documentation an insurer would request.

Can I take Xadago at home? Yes. Xadago is an oral tablet taken at home once daily. Dispensing remains through a licensed pharmacy. The patient does not need to be in a clinical setting for administration.

Are there serious drug interactions to flag? Yes. Safinamide should not be used with other MAO inhibitors, opioids (notably meperidine, tramadol, methadone, propoxyphene), St. John wort, cyclobenzaprine, dextromethorphan, or sympathomimetic amines. The treating

physician reviews the patient's full medication list before initiation. The dispensing pharmacy reviews interactions at dispensing.

Is Xadago a controlled substance? No. Xadago is not a DEA scheduled substance. Reserve Meds does not handle controlled substances. The standard EDA personal-import framework applies.

Cairo and the regional context

Cairo is the dominant import gateway for Egypt, and Cairo International Airport handles the vast majority of pharmaceutical air freight, with secondary capacity at Alexandria. The dispensing facility or licensed importer handles customs clearance on the Egyptian side, and Reserve Meds aligns the US-side sourcing and the international freight forwarder. Egyptian patients also frequently coordinate care across the diaspora. A typical pattern: the patient and treating physician are in Cairo or Alexandria, an adult child in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, or the US handles the USD wire and case correspondence, and the case requires Arabic-language coordination on the patient side alongside English-language coordination on the family side. Reserve Meds supports both sides in parallel with a single named coordinator running the case end to end.

Egypt's pharmaceutical sector imports roughly USD 3 billion in finished drug product annually, and a meaningful slice of that demand sits inside small named-patient cases rather than mass-market supply. EDA processes a substantial volume of personal-import authorisations each year, and the dispensing institutions named on this page handle named-patient cases as routine workflow. Cross-border patient flow from Sudan and from Libya into Egypt is a meaningful element of the region's specialty-care economy; the Gulf-to-Egypt patient flow is smaller in volume but real.

The patient experience, what your family actually does

From the family's perspective, the steps look like this. Your physician decides this specific medicine is the right next step. That is a clinical decision and stays with them. Your physician or the hospital pharmacy team reaches out to Reserve Meds, or the patient or family submits the waitlist request and we connect with the physician. Reserve Meds confirms eligibility within 24 to 48 hours and sends a documentation kit to the treating physician, with Arabic-language patient-facing summaries where the family requests them. Your physician prepares the clinical justification letter, gathers the patient identifier documents, and the dispensing facility files the personal-import application with EDA. While EDA reviews, Reserve Meds aligns US-side sourcing, manufacturer documentation, and the international logistics plan. EDA authorisation comes through. We arrange the shipment from the US source to Cairo International Airport, with the dispensing facility or licensed importer handling customs clearance. The medicine reaches the licensed

dispensing pharmacy. Your physician initiates therapy. Pharmacovigilance reporting through EPVC runs through the course of therapy.

Where Reserve Meds fits

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your treating physician, the EDA, your dispensing pharmacy, or your insurance carrier. For Xadago specifically, our work is to align US-side sourcing, prepare the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs for the EDA filing, coordinate the international logistics to Cairo, and hold a single named coordinator through the case in both English and Arabic. Reserved for you.

Next step

If a treating physician in Egypt is weighing Xadago for a patient, the waitlist is the first step. We respond within 24 to 48 hours with an eligibility confirmation and a documentation kit for the physician.

Reserved for you.

Related

- Xadago clinical resource
- Egypt country page
- Named-patient pathway overview

Sources

1. FDA approval and prescribing information for Xadago (safinamide), Newron Pharmaceuticals (US WorldMeds in the US).
2. Egyptian Drug Authority, personal-import framework under Law No. 151 of 2019, with executive regulations under Prime Minister Decision No. 777 of 2020.
3. Egypt Universal Health Insurance, Law No. 2 of 2018, and Universal Health Insurance Authority (UHIA) governorate phased rollout.
4. Manufacturer product monograph and US wholesale acquisition cost references for Xadago dosing and pricing.

Review and oversight. Content on this page is reviewed by the Reserve Meds clinical and regulatory team. A US-licensed pharmacist reviews every prescription before dispensing.

Regulatory posture is informational, not legal advice; case-specific questions route to retained outside counsel. Review methodology ›

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