

DRUG DRIVING

This document provides some background to the law and the penalties for driving under the influence of drugs.



The law in England and Wales

It's illegal to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle with a controlled drug that exceeds the prescribed limit.

For more information follow the link [here](#).

If stopped by the police:

- A roadside saliva test can be carried out to detect any drugs in your body
- And if suspected to be unfit to drive or record a positive roadside test, you can be arrested and asked to give a blood or urine test at the police station – if drugs are detected you could be charged.



The penalties for drug driving

If you're convicted of drug driving you'll get:



A minimum 1 year driving ban



An unlimited fine



A maximum of 6 months in prison



A criminal record



Conviction will stay on your licence for 11 years



Your insurance costs will increase significantly



It may impact your job



Causing death by dangerous driving, under the influence of drugs, is a prison sentence of up to 14 years.



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Illegal drugs and prescription medicines

The law sets limits for illegal and prescription drugs.

Examples of illegal drugs include:

- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Ecstasy
- Ketamine

The **>limits** for illegal drugs are extremely low to cover accidental exposure.

Examples of prescription medicines:

- Clonazepam
- Diazepam
- Flunitrazepam
- Lorazepam
- Methadone
- Morphine or opiate and opioid-based drugs, eg codeine, tramadol or fentanyl
- Oxazepam
- Tempazepam

Refer to the **>GOV.UK website** for the full list.

You can drive after taking prescription drugs if:

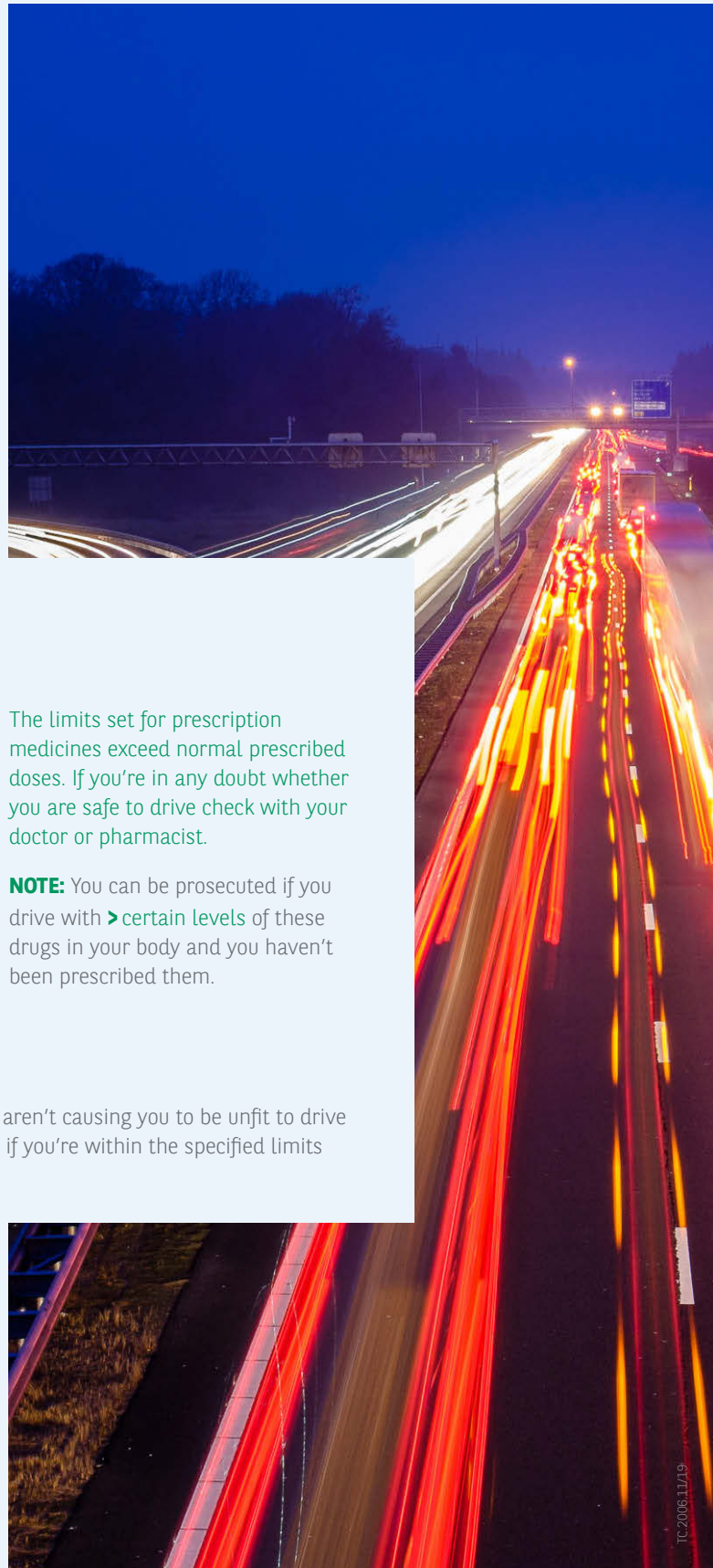
- you've been prescribed them and followed advice on how to take them by a healthcare professional and not been advised to stop driving
- they aren't causing you to be unfit to drive even if you're within the specified limits

Source **>GOV.UK**

Information correct as at November 2019.



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The limits set for prescription medicines exceed normal prescribed doses. If you're in any doubt whether you are safe to drive check with your doctor or pharmacist.

NOTE: You can be prosecuted if you drive with **>certain levels** of these drugs in your body and you haven't been prescribed them.



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