Brukinsa

Bahrain · access guide

How to access Brukinsa for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, mantle cell lymphoma, Waldenstrom macroglobulinaemia, marginal zone lymphoma, and follicular lymphoma from Bahrain: 2026 pathway via Bahrain haematology and pharmacy supply

By Reserve Meds clinical & regulatory team. Last reviewed 2026-05-20.

Bahrain's adult haematology services sit across the public and private network. Salmaniya Medical Complex (the main public tertiary referral centre), King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH), Bahrain Defence Force Hospital, Bahrain Specialist Hospital, and the major private hospitals in Manama and Riffa run adult haematology services that diagnose and treat B-cell malignancies. For complex multidisciplinary cases (transplant evaluation, CD19 CAR-T cell therapy candidacy), Bahraini patients are cross-border referred to KFSHRC Riyadh, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, or other regional referral centres. Brukinsa (zanubrutinib, BeiGene) is the second-generation, more selective BTK inhibitor on the prescribing physician's shortlist for patients with CLL, SLL, MCL, WM, MZL, or FL (in combination with obinutuzumab) where chronic BTK inhibition is the preferred long-term strategy.

This page explains how the pathway works in 2026 for a Bahrain-resident adult: who qualifies, where the prescribing haematologist conversation happens, how Brukinsa is dispensed within Bahrain's NHRA-regulated channels (with cross-border referral where applicable), what insurance pre-authorisation looks like, what the realistic annual cost band is in BHD, what to monitor across the first 6 months, and how the years-long treatment course fits into family life.

Why Brukinsa, and why now

Brukinsa is zanubrutinib, an oral, selective, second-generation Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor developed by BeiGene Ltd. The mechanism is covalent inhibition of BTK, the kinase that sits downstream of the B-cell receptor and that is essential to the survival of malignant B-cells in CLL, MCL, WM, MZL, and FL. What separates Brukinsa from the first-generation BTK inhibitor ibrutinib (Imbruvica) is selectivity: ibrutinib hits a wider range of off-target kinases, which translates into a higher rate of atrial fibrillation, bleeding, hypertension, and infection over the years of chronic therapy. Brukinsa's narrower kinase footprint translated into the ALPINE head-to-head trial in relapsed or refractory CLL: lower rate of atrial fibrillation, lower bleeding signal, and superior progression-free survival versus ibrutinib at 30 months.

The FDA approved Brukinsa for mantle cell lymphoma in November 2019 (accelerated), Waldenstrom macroglobulinaemia in August 2021, marginal zone lymphoma in September 2021, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma in January 2023, and follicular lymphoma in combination with obinutuzumab in March 2024. Bahrain NHRA registration is verified at intake; named-patient cross-border supply is available where in-country registration has not yet caught up with the FDA label.

Reserve Meds does not promote one BTK inhibitor over another.

What Brukinsa is, in plain language

Brukinsa is an oral capsule. There is no infusion centre, no inpatient stay. The patient takes the capsules at home. The standard dose is 160 mg twice daily (BID), or 320 mg once daily (QD); both schedules are FDA-approved and produce equivalent steady-state exposure. The capsules can be taken with or without food.

This is not a short course. Brukinsa is taken continuously for as long as it controls the disease.

Eligibility at a Bahrain haematologist clinic

For Bahrain-resident patients, the haematology services apply the FDA and EMA criteria with local adaptation:

1. Confirmed indication. CLL/SLL, MCL (typically after at least one prior line for FDA-accelerated label), WM, MZL after anti-CD20 therapy, or FL after two prior lines (in combination with obinutuzumab). Diagnosis confirmed by flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, and where indicated FISH, IGHV mutation status, TP53 status, and bone marrow biopsy. 2. Treatment history. First-line eligible in CLL and WM; later-line eligible in MCL, MZL, FL. 3. Adult (18 years or older). No paediatric label for Brukinsa. 4. Hepatitis B screen. HBsAg and anti-HBc both checked. HBV-positive patients need hepatology co-management and antiviral prophylaxis before starting. 5. HIV screen. 6. Pregnancy planning for women of childbearing potential; effective contraception required. 7. Drug-interaction review. Strong CYP3A inhibitors require dose reduction; strong inducers should be avoided. Concomitant antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy should be minimised where possible. 8. Second primary malignancy counselling. Annual dermatology surveillance is recommended.

The Bahrain prescribing and supply picture, plainly

Brukinsa NHRA registration status is verified at intake. BeiGene's MENA commercial supply runs through regional distributors. Where in-country registration is complete, in-country pharmacy dispensing applies. Where registration has not yet caught up with the FDA label for a specific indication, a named-patient cross-border supply pathway covers the case. The pathway is:

1. **Prescribing haematologist**: a board-certified haematology or haematology-oncology specialist at Salmaniya Medical Complex, KHUH, BDF Hospital, Bahrain Specialist Hospital, or an NHRA-licensed private oncology practice. Multidisciplinary tumour board discussion is standard. For transplant evaluation or CD19 CAR-T cell therapy candidacy, cross-border referral to KFSHRC Riyadh, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, or other regional centres. 2. **Pharmacy dispensing**: hospital pharmacy at the prescribing centre for the first 1 to 3 months of supply; NHRA-licensed community pharmacy thereafter (Brukinsa is shelf-stable at room temperature). 3. **Insurance pre-authorisation**: MoH coverage for Bahraini nationals at Salmaniya through the specialty drug formulary with documented diagnosis and indication. GIG, AXA, Bupa Arabia (cross-border patients), and other commercial insurers review on a case-by-case basis; prior-line documentation is required for MCL, MZL, and FL indications. 4. **Baseline labs**: complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, hepatitis B serology, HIV, ECG, blood pressure measurement. 5. **Ongoing monitoring**: haematology follow-up monthly for the first 3 months, then quarterly. CBC at each visit. Blood pressure check at every visit. Annual dermatology surveillance.

Cost band and insurance positioning

US list price for Brukinsa is approximately USD 14,000 to 16,500 per month at WAC. Annual cash list price is approximately USD 165,000 to 200,000.

At 2026 indicative cross rates, the BHD-equivalent annual cost band is approximately BHD 62,000 to 75,000 at list price. MoH formulary coverage for Bahraini nationals substantially reduces out-of-pocket exposure for eligible patients; commercial pre-authorisation reduces exposure for insured residents.

What to expect on Brukinsa, week-by-week

Week 1 to 4: First weeks on Brukinsa. CBC, blood pressure, and side-effect check at the first follow-up. Common early side effects: fatigue, bruising, mild infection.

Week 4 to 12: Response assessment begins. CLL and WM patients may show transient lymphocytosis. MCL, MZL, FL: imaging response at week 12.

Month 3 to 6: Continued tolerability check. Watch for atrial fibrillation, hypertension, infections, bruising or bleeding.

Month 6 and beyond: Quarterly haematology follow-up. Annual dermatology surveillance.

When Brukinsa is the wrong drug

For a Bahrain patient with active hepatitis B not yet under hepatology management, severe hepatic impairment, active serious bleeding, chronic strong CYP3A inhibitor therapy, during pregnancy, or a strong preference for fixed-duration therapy, the operational pathway shifts:

- **Venetoclax-based regimens (Venclexta with obinutuzumab or rituximab)**: fixed-duration BCL-2 inhibition in CLL. - **Acalabrutinib (Calquence) or pirtobrutinib (Jaypirca)**: alternative selective or non-covalent BTK inhibitors. - **Chemoimmunotherapy (FCR, BR)**: for selected fit younger patients with mutated IGHV CLL. - **CD19 CAR-T cell therapy or bispecific antibodies**: for relapsed or refractory disease after multiple lines (cross-border to KFSHRC Riyadh or Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi).

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What Reserve Meds does on this case

We are a US-based concierge coordinator. On a Bahrain Brukinsa case we build the documentation pack with the treating haematologist's office, confirm NHRA registration status and the appropriate dispensing pathway (in-country or cross-border named-patient), run the MoH or commercial insurance pre-authorisation conversation, coordinate supply logistics, organise baseline screening, and stay with the case through the first year of dosing with handoff to the local haematologist. Clinical decisions remain with your treating haematologist.

Reserve Meds's role

US-based concierge coordinator for cross-border specialty medicine. We are not the prescriber, not the dispensing pharmacy, and not the manufacturer. All clinical decisions remain with your treating physician.

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