

Darzalex

Bahrain · access guide

How to access Darzalex or Darzalex Faspro for multiple myeloma or AL amyloidosis from Bahrain: 2026 pathway via Bahrain Oncology Center, BDF, Salmaniya and King Hamad University Hospital

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

Darzalex Faspro (daratumumab plus hyaluronidase-fihj) and Darzalex IV (daratumumab) are administered for adult multiple myeloma and AL amyloidosis across the Bahrain adult haematology and oncology network. Both formulations are registered with the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA); daratumumab combination induction and maintenance are standard practice. For a Bahrain-resident adult newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2026, daratumumab is part of the standard induction conversation, and the operational question is which combination, which formulation (IV or SC), and how the year-on-year monthly maintenance fits with work and family logistics.

This page explains how the pathway works in 2026 for a Bahrain-resident adult: who qualifies, which Bahrain centres administer, what the schedule looks like across induction-consolidation-maintenance, what realistic cost looks like in BHD, what HBV-screening and blood bank preparation is needed, and what to do about the cross-match interference Darzalex causes.

Why Darzalex Faspro, and why now

Daratumumab is a humanised IgG1 kappa monoclonal antibody developed by Genmab and commercialised by Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine (Janssen Biotech), targeting CD38 expressed on multiple myeloma cells and AL amyloidosis clonal plasma cells. Mechanism: CDC, ADCC, ADCP, direct apoptosis, immunomodulation, CD38 enzyme inhibition.

Darzalex IV was FDA approved November 2015; Darzalex Faspro SC was FDA approved May 2020 with equivalent efficacy, lower infusion-reaction rate (approximately 10 percent SC vs approximately 50 percent first IV infusion), and 5-minute injection vs 7-hour first IV infusion. The PERSEUS Phase 3 trial established D-VRd as the preferred quadruplet induction-consolidation-maintenance regimen for transplant-eligible NDMM; FDA approved D-VRd in July 2024.

For a Bahrain patient newly diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2026, the treating haematologist's induction conversation typically centres on D-VRd for transplant-eligible patients or D-Rd (MAIA) for transplant-ineligible patients. For relapsed or refractory disease the conversation moves to D-Vd, D-Kd, D-Pd, or to a BCMA bispecific or BCMA CAR-T (cross-border).

What Darzalex Faspro is, in plain language

A single 1800 mg fixed dose, co-formulated with recombinant hyaluronidase-fihj, is delivered as a subcutaneous abdominal injection over 3 to 5 minutes. No infusion line, no central venous access. Observation 6 hours after the first dose; shortens with subsequent doses.

Schedule: weekly weeks 1-8; every two weeks weeks 9-24; every four weeks from week 25 onwards.

Premedications before each dose: corticosteroid, antihistamine, antipyretic, montelukast for first dose. Post-treatment oral corticosteroids for two days after the first dose.

Eligibility at a Bahrain haematologist clinic

For Bahrain-resident patients:

1. Confirmed multiple myeloma per IMWG criteria, or confirmed AL amyloidosis with tissue biopsy.
2. Adequate cardiac function: baseline ECHO with LVEF, particularly for AL amyloidosis and carfilzomib-containing regimens.
3. Lenalidomide tolerance and creatinine clearance assessment for D-Rd or D-VRd.
4. Baseline neuropathy assessment for bortezomib-containing regimens.
5. **Hepatitis B virus screening before initiation.** HBV-positive patients require antiviral prophylaxis (entecavir or tenofovir) and HBV DNA monitoring.
6. Baseline CBC with differential, comprehensive metabolic panel, immunoglobulin levels, SPEP and UPEP with immunofixation, serum free light chains.
7. **Type and screen the patient and notify the blood bank.** Daratumumab interferes with indirect Coombs and cross-match testing for up to 6 months after the last dose. Darzalex patient ID card issued. DTT-treated red cells for cross-matching.
8. Pregnancy testing and effective contraception (3 months post last dose).
9. Vaccination review: avoid live vaccines.

A Bahrain patient should arrive with the most recent diagnostic workup: SPEP and UPEP with immunofixation, serum free light chain assay, marrow biopsy and aspirate with cytogenetics including FISH, skeletal imaging, PET-CT where used, beta-2-microglobulin, albumin, LDH, treatment history. For AL amyloidosis: cardiac biomarkers (NT-proBNP, troponin), 24-hour urine protein, cardiac MRI or ECHO with strain, involved-organ assessment.

The Bahrain administration picture, plainly

The relevant Bahrain adult haematology and oncology infrastructure in 2026:

- **Bahrain Oncology Center (BOC)** at King Hamad American Mission Hospital: the regional cancer centre with adult medical oncology, haematology, and BMT capabilities; daratumumab combination care is administered routinely.
- **Salmaniya Medical Complex, Manama:** the largest Bahrain government hospital, with adult haematology and oncology services.
- **King Hamad University Hospital, Busaiteen:** adult medical oncology and haematology.
- **BDF Hospital (Bahrain Defence Force Hospital), Riffa:** adult haematology and oncology; military health services coverage.

Janssen Middle East coordinates supply through the NHRA-registered channel. Both Darzalex IV and Darzalex Faspro are available; SC is the operational default for adult MM since 2021.

For Bahrain-resident adults considering BCMA bispecifics or BCMA CAR-T as the next operational step after daratumumab-based regimens, the practical pathway is cross-border: KFSHRC Riyadh (regional reference for CAR-T with 200+ commercial CAR-T patients), Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, NCCCR Doha, or KHCC Amman. Daratumumab itself does not require cross-border travel.

The 2026 pathway, step by step

Week 0 to 2: Diagnostic workup and treatment-plan discussion with the treating haematologist at BOC, Salmaniya, KHUH, or BDF. Reserve Meds assembles the document pack where it helps the family understand the regimen choice.

Week 2 to 3: HBV screening, blood bank type-and-screen and DTT protocol setup, baseline cardiac assessment if needed, baseline labs, treatment-plan finalisation.

Week 3: First dose. Darzalex Faspro: premedications, single 1800 mg SC injection over 3-5 minutes, 6-hour observation, post-treatment oral corticosteroid for 2 days. Darzalex IV: 7-hour first infusion with split-dose option.

Weeks 4-11: Weekly doses.

Weeks 12-24: Every-two-week doses.

Week 25 onwards: Monthly dosing for duration of treatment plan.

Ongoing: CBC, SPEP, serum free light chains, comprehensive metabolic panel, periodic immunoglobulin levels, infection surveillance.

Cost expectation in BHD

Darzalex Faspro Bahrain pricing per 1800 mg vial typically runs BHD 2,900 to 3,600 (subject to confirmation at intake; NHRA tender and payer pricing). Standard first-year schedule (8 weekly + 8 every-two-week + monthly maintenance) uses 24-26 doses, costing approximately BHD 70K to 90K for daratumumab alone. After year 1, monthly maintenance costs approximately BHD 35K to 44K per year.

Combination costs add lenalidomide (D-Rd, D-VRd), bortezomib (D-VRd, D-Vd), or pomalidomide (D-Pd) on top. Lenalidomide adds approximately BHD 20K to 35K per year on D-Rd or D-VRd induction.

For Bahraini nationals, MoH and SHIS (Social Health Insurance Scheme) coverage for NHRA-registered standard-of-care MM regimens routinely extends to daratumumab combinations. The pre-authorisation conversation happens at induction planning. For expatriate residents, employer-sponsored insurance covers daratumumab for registered indications subject to pre-authorisation; cash-pay-with-documentation applies where insurance ceiling caps are reached.

Religious, ethical, and family-logistics framing

Daratumumab is a recombinant monoclonal antibody manufactured in mammalian cell culture (CHO cells). Hyaluronidase-fihj in Faspro is recombinant human hyaluronidase, also CHO-derived. No porcine, bovine, or human-derived component in the final product. The injection is permissible across Bahraini Islamic jurisprudence on the same footing as other recombinant biologic therapies.

Multiple myeloma is overwhelmingly adult, median age 65-70. The treatment plan involves the patient and adult children or spouse; weekly then bi-weekly then monthly clinic visits over years require family transport coordination.

HBV screening before initiation is a hard rule. Bahrain-resident expatriates from higher-prevalence regions need explicit screening at first daratumumab discussion.

Cross-match interference: the patient must carry a Darzalex patient ID card. Before any planned transfusion, the blood bank must be notified; DTT-treated red cells are used for cross-matching. The interference persists for up to 6 months after the last dose.

When Darzalex Faspro is not the right call

For a Bahrain patient with confirmed daratumumab refractoriness, the operational alternative is isatuximab (Sarclisa, Sanofi), the other commercial anti-CD38 mAb with a different binding epitope. For triple-class-exposed relapsed-refractory disease, the pathway moves to BCMA bispecifics (teclistamab, elranatamab), GPRC5D-directed talquetamab, or BCMA CAR-T (Abecma or Carvykti) cross-border at KFSHRC Riyadh, CCAD, NCCCR, or KHCC. For active HBV without adequate antiviral coverage, daratumumab initiation is deferred. For persistent grade 3+ infusion reaction across IV and SC, discontinuation.

Reserve Meds does not push a default regimen. The page describes Darzalex Faspro because daratumumab is the backbone biologic the patient has asked about. If the conversation with the treating haematologist points toward isatuximab, a bispecific, CAR-T, or a non-CD38 regimen, the operational pathway shifts accordingly.

What Reserve Meds does on this case

We are a US-based concierge coordinator. We are not the prescriber and not the dispensing pharmacy. On a Bahrain Darzalex or Darzalex Faspro case we build the document pack, coordinate pre-treatment HBV screening and blood bank notification logistics, support pre-authorisation conversations with MoH, SHIS, or commercial insurers, coordinate supply continuity for longer maintenance, and stay with the case through the induction-consolidation-maintenance arc. Clinical decisions remain with your treating haematologist at BOC, Salmaniya, KHUH, or BDF.

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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reserved for you.

Composite case examples. This document is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Please consult your treating physician.

Reserve Meds is in pre-launch. Published timelines and cost ranges are indicative, not guarantees.

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