

Dysport

Abu Dhabi · access guide

How to access Dysport for spasticity, cervical dystonia, or sialorrhea from Abu Dhabi: 2026 in-emirate pathway via Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, SSMC, Healthpoint, Burjeel, and SKMC paediatric services

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

Dysport (abobotulinumtoxinA, Ipsen) is one of the established botulinum toxin type A products with a broad set of approved therapeutic indications: cervical dystonia in adults, upper and lower limb spasticity in adults and in children aged 2 and older, and chronic sialorrhea. Dysport has been commercially available in Abu Dhabi for many years through specialist neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, paediatric neurorehabilitation, and otolaryngology services concentrated in the deep tertiary network. Abu Dhabi has the deepest specialist injection capacity in the UAE for both adult and paediatric cases.

One boundary up front. Dysport is also FDA-approved for cosmetic improvement of glabellar lines. Cosmetic botulinum toxin is a routine elective service widely available in Abu Dhabi private aesthetics clinics. Reserve Meds does not coordinate cosmetic botulinum toxin access. The page below is for therapeutic Dysport. If you are looking for cosmetic treatment, the right next step is a local aesthetics clinic, not this page.

What Dysport is, in plain language

Dysport is botulinum neurotoxin type A. It is administered by intramuscular injection at the affected muscle group, by a trained specialist physician, in a clinic setting. The injected toxin temporarily blocks the chemical signal that tells the muscle to contract. The injected muscle becomes weaker over 2 to 7 days, the effect peaks at 2 to 4 weeks, and the muscle recovers to baseline over 12 to 16 weeks. The injection cycle then repeats.

Dysport is never self-administered. The patient does not receive a vial at home. The product is held at the treating hospital's specialty pharmacy, reconstituted by the injecting physician on the day of the appointment, and administered in the clinic.

Dysport units are not interchangeable with Botox, Xeomin, or Myobloc units. The injecting physician prescribes by the Dysport unit specifically.

The therapeutic indications, briefly

Cervical dystonia (adult): 500 units divided across affected neck muscles, re-injection at 12 weeks. **Upper limb spasticity (adult):** up to 1000 units divided per session. **Lower limb spasticity (adult):** up to 1500 units divided. **Paediatric spasticity (age 2 and older):** weight-based dosing, integrated with paediatric neurorehabilitation. **Sialorrhea (adult and paediatric age 3 and older):** parotid and submandibular gland injection with ultrasound guidance.

The Abu Dhabi specialist injection picture in 2026

Abu Dhabi's specialist injection capacity is unusually deep across the relevant subspecialties:

Adult cervical dystonia (movement disorders neurology): Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi neurology has the deepest movement disorders programme in the UAE. SSMC neurology, SKMC neurology, Burjeel Medical City neurology, Yas Clinic Hospital, and the NMC tertiary network supplement.

Adult spasticity (physical medicine and rehabilitation): Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi PM&R, Healthpoint Abu Dhabi (the Mubadala-affiliated rehabilitation tertiary centre), Burjeel Royal Hospital PM&R, SSMC rehabilitation services. Cleveland Clinic and Healthpoint integrate the PM&R injection clinic with physiotherapy, occupational therapy, orthotic fitting, and gait analysis in one centre, which is the operational ideal for adult spasticity care.

Paediatric spasticity (paediatric neurology and paediatric rehabilitation): SKMC paediatric neurology, SSMC paediatric rehabilitation, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi paediatric services, Tawam Hospital Al Ain paediatric services (the longest-standing paediatric rare-disease service in the emirate). Paediatric injection sessions with sedation or general anaesthesia are concentrated at Cleveland Clinic, SSMC, and SKMC where paediatric anaesthesia capability is available. For complex paediatric cerebral palsy considering selective dorsal rhizotomy adjunct, the regional reference is Sidra Medicine Doha; cross-border referral via Cleveland Clinic or SSMC neurosurgical review.

Sialorrhea injection (otolaryngology): ENT at the major Abu Dhabi tertiary centres, often co-managed with the referring neurology or paediatric team.

The pathway is straightforward in Abu Dhabi because Dysport is commercially registered and stocked through the hospital specialty pharmacies. There is no named-patient or NPP routing complexity. The operational questions are which specialist, which clinic, what the appointment cycle looks like, and how the insurance pre-authorisation runs.

Eligibility and the conversation with the specialist

The first appointment is the clinical assessment to confirm the indication, set the realistic treatment goal, plan the muscle targets and dose, and align the patient or family on the injection cycle commitment.

Pre-injection review covers active infection at the planned sites, active neuromuscular junction disease (myasthenia gravis, Lambert-Eaton, ALS as relative contraindications), aminoglycoside antibiotic exposure, anticoagulant status, and pregnancy or lactation status. The treating specialist sets the re-injection calendar with a minimum 12 weeks between sessions for the same muscle group.

The injection session, step by step

A 30-to-60-minute clinic appointment. Patient positioned, sites marked, EMG or ultrasound guidance for deeper muscles, vial reconstituted by the physician, injections given, 15-to-30-minute post-injection observation. The specialist briefs on what to expect and on warning signs.

For paediatric injection sessions, the sedation or anaesthesia plan is set in advance. Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, SSMC, and SKMC paediatric services have established paediatric anaesthesia integration for injection sessions.

The 2026 pathway, step by step

Week 0: Referral. The primary physician, neurologist, or paediatrician refers to the appropriate specialist. For Emirati nationals, the referral routes through Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, SSMC, or SKMC under the Thiqa pathway.

Week 1 to 4: First specialist assessment. Indication confirmed, treatment goal set, injection plan drafted, insurance pre-authorisation initiated.

Week 4 to 8: Insurance approval and first injection scheduling. For Emirati nationals, Thiqa pre-authorisation; for commercial insurance, Daman, AXA, Oman Insurance, Cigna, Bupa, MetLife as applicable; for self-pay, the cost picture is set out below.

Week 6 to 10: First injection session. Reserve Meds coordinates the appointment logistics, the post-injection physiotherapy schedule where applicable, and the 12-to-16-week re-injection calendar.

Week 18 to 22: First post-injection follow-up and re-injection appointment.

Month 6 to 12: Ongoing 12-to-16-week injection cycle integrated with rehabilitation.

Cost expectation in AED

For Emirati nationals being treated at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, SSMC, SKMC, or Tawam under the Thiqa pathway, therapeutic botulinum toxin for cervical dystonia, spasticity, and sialorrhea is typically covered. The patient's out-of-pocket exposure is minimal.

For non-Emirati residents and Emirati nationals routed through the private sector, the cost picture is set per centre. Per-vial private-pay cost of Dysport at the Abu Dhabi specialty pharmacy commonly runs USD 800 to USD 1,500 per 500-unit vial. Per-session injection cost typically runs USD 1,500 to USD 4,000 depending on indication, dose, and centre. A spasticity patient receiving 4 sessions per year at the upper unit end runs an annual drug-plus-procedure cost of approximately USD 8,000 to USD 16,000.

At 2026 indicative cross rates, the AED-equivalent annual cost band is approximately AED 29,000 to AED 59,000 per patient. Insurance coverage for therapeutic botulinum toxin is commonly available through Thiqa, Daman, and the major commercial insurers. Cosmetic glabellar line injection is patient-pay only and is not coordinated by Reserve Meds.

What to monitor

Distant spread of toxin effect (boxed warning): difficulty swallowing or breathing, generalised weakness, eye droop. Highest risk in paediatric limb spasticity at higher doses. Briefed at every session.

Dysphagia after cervical dystonia injection: common, dose-related, usually mild and self-limited.

Injection-site reactions: local pain, bruising, mild swelling. Self-limited.

Antibody formation with repeated injection: 12-week minimum re-injection interval is the discipline that minimises this risk.

Pregnancy: limited data, case-by-case benefit-risk discussion. **Lactation:** generally compatible.

Drug interactions: aminoglycosides and other neuromuscular junction blockers may potentiate. Medication review at every session.

Religious, ethical, and family-logistics framing

Dysport contains human serum albumin as an excipient. The treating specialist can discuss Xeomin (which does not contain human serum albumin) for patients or families who prefer to avoid the human serum albumin component. Reserve Meds raises this proactively where it is likely to be relevant.

The 12-to-16-week injection cycle accommodates Ramadan, Hajj, summer travel, and family commitments without significant disruption.

For paediatric patients, spasticity care is a multi-year commitment integrated with physiotherapy, orthotic management, and where appropriate orthopaedic and neurosurgical input. SKMC, SSMC, and Tawam paediatric services are designed to support the family through the multi-year journey.

When Dysport is not the right call

For cosmetic glabellar lines, Dysport via Reserve Meds is not the pathway. Local Abu Dhabi aesthetics clinics provide cosmetic botulinum toxin as a routine elective service.

For patients with active neuromuscular junction disease, active infection at the injection site, severe fixed contracture (orthopaedic surgical referral), or neutralising antibodies to type A with reduced clinical response (Xeomin or Myobloc alternative), the specialist sets the threshold and the operational pathway shifts accordingly.

For complex paediatric cases beyond the in-emirate scope, the cross-border option is Sidra Medicine Doha for the regional reference paediatric neurorehabilitation programme.

Reserve Meds does not push Dysport as a default. The page above describes the Dysport pathway because Dysport is the product the patient or family has asked about.

What Reserve Meds does on this case

We are a US-based concierge coordinator for specialty pharma access. For therapeutic Dysport cases in Abu Dhabi we identify the appropriate specialist (movement disorders neurologist for cervical dystonia, physiatrist at Cleveland Clinic or Healthpoint for adult spasticity, paediatric neurologist or paediatric rehab at SKMC or SSMC for paediatric spasticity, otolaryngologist for sialorrhea), coordinate the first specialist appointment, run the insurance pre-authorisation in parallel with the clinical pre-authorisation, schedule the injection session and the post-injection physiotherapy programme, and maintain the 12-to-16-week re-injection calendar. We do not sell, dispense, store, transport, or administer the product.

Cosmetic botulinum toxin for glabellar lines is outside Reserve Meds scope. Clinical decisions remain with your treating specialist.

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.

Reserve Meds

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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