Entresto access in the UAE: the EDE named-patient pathway

How patients in the United Arab Emirates obtain US-manufactured Novartis Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan) for HFrEF, chronic heart failure, and pediatric heart failure when continuity of supply matters.

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Quick orientation

Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan) is the first member of the angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor (ARNI) class. It is FDA-approved to reduce cardiovascular death and heart failure hospitalisation in adult chronic heart failure (with benefit most evident in reduced ejection fraction), and is approved for pediatric patients aged one year and older with symptomatic heart failure due to systemic left ventricular dysfunction. In the UAE, Entresto is registered with MOHAP, though the precise strength a titrated patient needs (24/26 mg, 49/51 mg, or 97/103 mg twice daily) is not always continuously available, and patients specifically requesting US-manufactured Novartis Entresto for continuity of therapy turn to the EDE named-patient framework. Reserved for you.

Why patients in the UAE need Entresto via NPP

Entresto's UAE access pattern is not a registration gap. The drug is approved in more than 115 countries, EMA-authorised since November 2015, and locally listed through MOHAP and DHA via the Novartis affiliate network. The pattern is one of stocking continuity and source preference. The three structural access gaps documented in the UAE country module map cleanly onto Entresto demand. The first applies most often: registered but not stocked at the patient's needed strength. A patient titrated to the 97/103 mg twice-daily target maintenance dose may find that the local pharmacy can supply 49/51 mg reliably but not 97/103 mg consistently, particularly in Northern Emirates pharmacies or smaller private facilities. A continuity-of-therapy gap of even a week is a clinically meaningful event in chronic heart failure management.

The second pattern is source preference. A subset of UAE cardiologists and patients specifically request US-manufactured Novartis Entresto rather than the locally licensed Novartis brand or the branded-generic options that have entered some regional markets. This may reflect trial-protocol matching, prior treatment continuity (a patient stabilised in a US specialty cardiology center returning to the UAE), or the snowbird pattern of patients who split residency and prefer single-source supply continuity. The named-patient pathway makes that preference executable through transparent cash-pay cross-border procurement, with the patient using Entresto for an FDA- and EMA-approved indication.

The EDE named-patient pathway for Entresto

The federal pathway for a UAE-licensed physician to import a medicine not stocked locally is the unregistered-medicine import permit. From 29 December 2025, this is administered through the EDE portal at ede.gov.ae. Entresto qualifies cleanly: it holds FDA approval (July 2015), EMA

marketing authorisation (November 2015), Health Canada and PMDA Japan approvals. The framework allows hospitals and licensed pharmaceutical establishments to import a specific medicine for a specific patient when the medicine is approved by a recognised reference authority and a clinically equivalent locally registered alternative is not suitable or, in the Entresto continuity case, not consistently available at the prescribed strength.

The Entresto clinical-justification angle in the EDE application has two common framings. For an adult HFrEF or broader chronic heart failure patient, the letter documents diagnosis, left ventricular ejection fraction where available, NYHA functional class, current guideline-directed medical therapy stack (beta-blocker, MRA, SGLT2 inhibitor), the dosing history including titration to 97/103 mg twice daily, the importance of supply continuity at the titrated target dose, and the 36-hour washout discipline required when switching to or from an ACE inhibitor. For a pediatric patient aged one year and older with symptomatic heart failure due to systemic left ventricular dysfunction, the letter references the pediatric label addition (October 2019), the weight-based dosing table, and pediatric monitoring including blood pressure, serum creatinine and eGFR, and serum potassium. An ACE-inhibitor history with angioedema is a hard contraindication and is called out explicitly in the letter where applicable.

A complete application includes the clinical justification letter signed by a UAE-licensed physician (MOHAP, DHA, DOH, or Sharjah Health Authority) practicing in the emirate of the dispensing facility, the patient identifier, full product details (brand name Entresto, generic sacubitril/valsartan, manufacturer Novartis, strength, pack size, treatment duration), the destination dispensing facility license, and a chain-of-custody plan. Entresto is a room-temperature small molecule, so the chain-of-custody plan is simpler than a cold-chain biologic case: storage at 20 to 25 degrees Celsius with permitted excursions, original blister packaging, protection from moisture and heat extremes.

Approval timelines for routine Entresto cases are typically 5 to 15 business days. The pathway is well understood for cardiology small molecules; complex cases are rare for this product.

Where Entresto gets dispensed in the UAE

Entresto is an oral tablet that does not require refrigerated storage or infusion-suite administration. The dispensing facility list therefore covers the full UAE specialty hospital network with cardiology service lines, including Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (M42 group, Al Maryah Island, complex cardiology), Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SEHA network, managed by Cleveland Clinic, JCI-accredited), American Hospital Dubai (Mayo Clinic Care Network member), King's College Hospital London Dubai (UK-affiliated, strength in cardiology), Mediclinic City Hospital in Dubai Healthcare City, and the larger NMC Healthcare cardiology service lines. For pediatric heart failure cases, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City's pediatric service, the pediatric cardiology services at American Hospital Dubai, and the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi pediatric infrastructure are the natural fits.

For Northern Emirates patients without a local specialty cardiology center, routing through a Dubai- or Abu Dhabi-based importer with a pharmaceutical establishment license is the standard practical path. The importer files the EDE permit, performs customs clearance, and delivers the Entresto supply to the prescribing hospital's outpatient pharmacy under chain-of-custody documentation.

Real cost picture for Entresto in the UAE

US wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for Entresto is approximately USD 12.50 per day per published payer references, equating to roughly USD 4,500 per year at WAC for daily dosing across the three strengths. Cash-pay retail pricing in the United States is approximately USD 600 to 700 per 30-day supply without insurance. The AED is pegged to the US dollar at approximately 3.67 AED to 1 USD, so a year at US WAC translates to approximately AED 16,500 before logistics and coordination overhead. The Medicare Part D Maximum Fair Price effective January 1, 2026 (USD 295 per 30-day supply) applies only to US Medicare beneficiaries and is not available for international named-patient procurement.

The all-in delivered-to-UAE cost typically includes US drug acquisition at procurement pricing, ambient international logistics in the USD 400 to 1,200 (approximately AED 1,500 to 4,400) range (lower than the cold-chain biologics in this matrix because Entresto does not require temperature-controlled packout), nominal EDE permit and UAE customs fees, regulatory documentation handling, and the Reserve Meds coordination fee. Three- or six-month supply windows reduce per-month logistics overhead and align well with cardiology follow-up cadence. Reserve Meds quotes an indicative range at intake and a firm itemised quote after documentation review.

On the insurance side, Daman, Thiqa, GIG Gulf, Sukoon, ADNIC, and Orient each assess cardiology named-patient imports case by case. Entresto is frequently covered domestically where stocked, and reimbursement on a named-patient import is more often available than on rare-disease products precisely because the underlying drug is on most insurer formularies. Cash-pay remains the default posture at the point of order.

Typical timeline for Entresto in the UAE

An ambient small-molecule cardiology case is at the faster end of the EDE timeline distribution. Reserve Meds confirms eligibility within 24 to 48 hours and sends a documentation kit to the treating cardiologist. The physician or hospital import pharmacy or specialty importer files the EDE permit, which clears in 5 to 15 business days for routine cases. US-side procurement and ambient shipping add 3 to 7 business days once the permit is issued. The full cycle for an initial 90-day supply is typically 2 to 4 weeks. Re-supply on the standard cardiology follow-up cadence (typically every 3 months) aligns naturally with the patient's titration check-ins.

What your physician needs to provide

The clinical justification letter, on the prescribing institution's letterhead and signed by a UAE-licensed cardiologist or internal medicine specialist practicing in the emirate of the dispensing facility, typically includes: diagnosis (HFrEF, chronic heart failure across a broader ejection fraction range, or pediatric symptomatic heart failure due to systemic LV dysfunction), severity markers including LVEF and NYHA functional class, prior therapy history with ACE inhibitor or ARB tolerance, the rationale for ARNI therapy (citing PARADIGM-HF and the ACC/AHA/HFSA or ESC Class I recommendation for symptomatic HFrEF), the current titrated dose and target maintenance dose, the importance of supply continuity at the titrated dose, and the monitoring plan (baseline and periodic blood pressure, serum creatinine and eGFR, serum potassium, with more frequent monitoring during dose titration, in CKD patients, on potassium-sparing diuretics, or in the elderly). The 36-hour washout requirement when switching from or to an ACE inhibitor and the angioedema contraindication are explicitly addressed. For pediatric cases, the weight-based dosing table and pediatric-specific monitoring are documented.

The physician confirms their UAE license is in active standing at filing. The chain-of-custody plan for an ambient product is straightforward and supplied by Reserve Meds for inclusion in the application.

Common questions about Entresto in the UAE

Will Daman, Thiqa, GIG Gulf, Sukoon, ADNIC, or Orient cover Entresto?

Entresto is on the formulary of many UAE insurers because it is locally registered. Coverage on a named-patient import (where the patient or cardiologist requests US-manufactured Novartis Entresto rather than the locally stocked supply) is assessed case by case and often hinges on whether the local registered product is documented as unavailable or unsuitable. We supply the documentation set that allows your insurer to assess the case; the claim itself sits with you or your hospital.

Will my DHA-licensed, DOH-licensed, or MOHAP-licensed cardiologist's letter be sufficient?

Yes. Any UAE-licensed cardiologist or internal medicine specialist practicing in good standing in the emirate of the dispensing facility has signing authority. Joint-privilege physicians who hold licenses across multiple emirates can file in any emirate where they are credentialed.

Can a child receive Entresto via this pathway?

Yes. Entresto is FDA-approved for pediatric patients aged one year and older with symptomatic heart failure due to systemic left ventricular dysfunction. The clinical justification letter includes weight-based dosing per the pediatric dosing table and pediatric-specific monitoring. The pediatric services at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, American Hospital Dubai, and Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi handle pediatric named-patient imports routinely.

Can Entresto be taken with my current heart failure medications?

Entresto is used alongside beta-blockers, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists, and SGLT2 inhibitors as part of guideline-directed medical therapy. It must not be combined with an ACE inhibitor (a 36-hour washout is required when switching), and it should not be combined with aliskiren in patients with diabetes or renal impairment. The treating cardiologist owns this medication-stack decision.

What is the safety profile?

The most frequent adverse events in clinical trials were hypotension, hyperkalemia, cough, dizziness, and renal impairment. Angioedema occurred at a low rate (0.1 to 0.5 percent) with higher incidence in Black patients. Pregnancy is contraindicated. Patients with prior ACE-inhibitor-induced angioedema should not receive Entresto.

How long is Entresto taken?

Indefinitely. Entresto is chronic maintenance therapy for chronic heart failure. Treatment continues unless the patient develops intolerance, advances to alternative interventions (device therapy, transplant), or experiences contraindications.

Where Reserve Meds fits in Entresto cases

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace the treating cardiologist, do not replace the EDE or any emirate-level authority, and do not replace the UAE dispensing pharmacy. What we do is orchestrate the US-side procurement through authorised distributors that maintain DSCSA transaction-history compliance (which matters when the patient or cardiologist specifically requests genuine US-manufactured Novartis Entresto with intact pedigree documentation), the regulatory documentation kit the treating cardiologist needs, the ambient international logistics, and a single named coordinator through the case. Common UAE Entresto case patterns include the snowbird-style patient who maintains primary residence in the GCC with extended US family ties, the post-hospitalisation patient stabilised on US-titrated Entresto returning home and seeking continuity, and the cardiology second-opinion patient who initiates therapy in a US specialty cardiology center and requests ongoing supply through Reserve Meds. No prior Reserve Meds case experience with Entresto specifically at the time of this page; standard NPP coordination applies.

Next step

If the cardiologist has titrated the patient on Entresto and UAE supply continuity is the open question, the waitlist is the first step. We confirm eligibility within 24 to 48 hours and send the cardiologist's documentation kit.

Reserved for you.

This guide is informational, not medical or legal advice. The EDE named-patient framework requires a licensed UAE physician's clinical judgment; Reserve Meds is the coordinator, not the prescriber.