

## Lyfgenia

Abu Dhabi · access guide

# How to access Lyfgenia from Abu Dhabi, the named-patient coordination pathway, 2026

By Reserve Meds · Clinical & regulatory team · Last reviewed 2026-04-23

A Abu Dhabi patient with severe sickle cell disease (recurrent vaso-occlusive crises despite standard therapy) may be evaluated by their treating haematologist for Lyfgenia (lovotibeglogene autotemcel, lovo-cel). Lyfgenia is FDA-approved, developed by bluebird bio, and is a lentiviral-vector gene-addition therapy that introduces a functional modified  $\beta$ -globin gene ( $\beta$ A-T87Q) into the patient's own haematopoietic stem cells. Because Lyfgenia is an autologous cell therapy, access involves a qualified-treatment-centre (QTC) model that differs from traditional drug import, treatment typically requires international referral to a manufacturer-authorized centre.

This guide explains the legal and operational pathway, what your haematologist needs to coordinate, typical timing and cost bands, and where Reserve Meds fits in.

## The clinical situation

Lyfgenia is a one-time infusion of genetically modified autologous haematopoietic stem cells. Treatment involves: mobilisation and apheresis to collect stem cells, shipment of cells to the manufacturer, a manufacturing window of several weeks, high-dose myeloablative conditioning chemotherapy, infusion of the modified cells, and an extended inpatient recovery period for engraftment. Eligibility is based on severe SCD with recurrent crises and fitness for myeloablative conditioning. Patients considering Lyfgenia are also counselled on the boxed warning regarding haematologic malignancy; long-term haematologic surveillance is mandated.

Casgevy (CRISPR exon-editing) and Lyfgenia (lentiviral gene-addition) are the two FDA-approved one-time gene therapies for SCD. Your haematologist decides between them based on clinical factors, centre availability, and patient preference.

## Is Lyfgenia legally accessible for Abu Dhabi patients?

Lyfgenia cannot be imported as a drug, it is manufactured from the patient's own stem cells and must be administered at a Lyfgenia-qualified treatment centre. Access for Abu Dhabi patients typically follows a cross-border referral pattern under the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) and Ministry of Health medical-referral frameworks:

**Cross-border referral to an authorised QTC.** The patient travels to a Lyfgenia-qualified centre (in the US or select partnering international centres) for the full workup, mobilisation, apheresis, conditioning, infusion, and recovery.

The MoHAP and MoH medical-referral frameworks support this pattern with documentation covering medical necessity, QTC identification, the cross-border travel plan, and the long-term follow-up programme on return to Abu Dhabi.

## How the pathway works, step by step

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1. **Consultation with your haematologist.** Eligibility assessment including crisis history, organ-system baseline, haematologic malignancy risk counselling, and fitness for myeloablative conditioning.
2. **QTC identification.** Reserve Meds coordinates referral to a Lyfgenia-qualified centre through our international care-coordination network.
3. **MoHAP / MoH medical-referral dossier.** Your physician files the cross-border referral documentation.
4. **Mobilisation and apheresis.** Conducted at the QTC per manufacturer protocol; manufacturing begins after cell collection.
5. **Manufacturing window.** Bridging transfusion support may be given locally in Abu Dhabi or at the QTC during the several-week manufacturing period.
6. **Conditioning, infusion, and engraftment monitoring.** Administered at the QTC with extended inpatient stay; handover to your Abu Dhabi haematologist for long-term follow-up including mandated haematologic surveillance.

## What documentation your physician needs

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Your physician will typically need to provide:

- A clinical rationale letter confirming diagnosis, crisis history, organ-system status, and Lyfgenia as the indicated treatment
- Verification of their the DoH medical licence (Abu Dhabi emirate) (SCFHS / MOH)
- Identification of the authorised Lyfgenia QTC and the cross-border referral plan
- Patient identifier (anonymised reference where possible)
- A long-term follow-up plan including the boxed-warning haematologic-malignancy surveillance programme

Reserve Meds provides a coordination kit that bundles the templates MoHAP reviewers and QTCs expect to see for cross-border gene-therapy referrals, including the long-term surveillance documentation that is central to Lyfgenia's post-infusion care.

## Costs and timing

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Lyfgenia's US list price sits in an indicative 2026 drug-only range (delivered quote issued at intake) of roughly USD 3.0-3.2 million for the gene-therapy product itself, a one-time cost. Total cost of care, including inpatient stay, conditioning, mobilisation, apheresis, engraftment monitoring, and bridging care, typically runs substantially higher when delivered at a US QTC. Long-term haematologic surveillance adds an ongoing monitoring commitment. International travel and extended caregiver accommodation add incremental cost. Reserve Meds issues a full transparent quote at the start of intake.

Indicative timing from intake to infusion typically runs 12-24 weeks, driven primarily by the manufacturing window and QTC calendar. Inpatient stay around conditioning and engraftment is typically four to six weeks or longer.

*Fulfilment availability is limited to our first cohort, and all timelines published on this site are indicative. If your clinical situation is time-sensitive, tell us at intake. We triage accordingly.*

A culturally-aware note: sickle cell disease is concentrated in the Eastern Province of Abu Dhabi, where extended-family caregiving networks are strong and multigenerational. The extended Lyfgenia journey, several months abroad, followed by lifelong haematologic monitoring, benefits from a designated family coordinator in the Kingdom who works with our case lead. Our coordination includes caregiver travel, prayer-space orientation, halal-dining support at the QTC, and long-term follow-up documentation for your Abu Dhabi haematology team.

## Reserve Meds's role

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Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator for cross-border specialty medicine and cell therapy. For Lyfgenia specifically, we provide:

- **QTC referral.** Coordination with authorised Lyfgenia centres through our clinical network.
- **Documentation.** Cross-border referral and MoHAP/MoH named-patient package, including long-term-surveillance plan.
- **Logistics.** Patient and caregiver travel, accommodation, and post-infusion return-home planning.
- **Concierge case lead.** A named point of contact for the family throughout the extended treatment journey and into the long-term surveillance period.

**What we do not do:** we are not the prescriber, we do not practise medicine, we do not manufacture the cell product, and we are not the treatment centre. All clinical decisions remain with your treating haematologist and the QTC.

## Frequently asked

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**Is this legal in Abu Dhabi?** Yes, when executed through the MoHAP and MoH medical-referral framework with a qualified international treatment centre. See our trust and compliance page.

**How long will we be abroad?** Most Lyfgenia journeys require 3-6 months away from home covering workup, mobilisation, manufacturing, conditioning, infusion, and engraftment monitoring. The QTC confirms the plan.

**What is the boxed warning about?** Lyfgenia carries a boxed warning regarding haematologic malignancy based on observed cases. Long-term haematologic surveillance is therefore mandatory. Your haematologist will discuss the risk-benefit profile in detail.

**Casgevy or Lyfgenia, which is right for me?** Both are one-time gene therapies for severe SCD. The choice depends on clinical factors, centre availability, and patient preference. Your haematologist has the deciding input.

**Will MoH or private insurance cover the full cost?** Some Abu Dhabi patients may receive partial MoH coverage for complex international referrals, and some private insurers may consider complex cases. Cash-pay is the default baseline. We supply documentation for submission but do not process public-payer or insurance claims directly.

### *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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### **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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