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

How UAE patients with type 2 diabetes obtain Mounjaro (tirzepatide) through the Emirates Drug Establishment unregistered-medicine import permit. On-label type 2 diabetes only; Zepbound, the obesity brand of the same molecule, is a separate product outside Reserve Meds scope.

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Quick orientation, on-label only

Mounjaro is the Eli Lilly brand name for tirzepatide, the first-in-class dual agonist of the GIP and GLP-1 receptors, administered by once-weekly subcutaneous injection. The US FDA approved Mounjaro on 13 May 2022 as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes. The same active ingredient is marketed under a separate US brand, Zepbound, with a distinct FDA approval for chronic weight management granted in November 2023 and for moderate-to-severe obstructive sleep apnea in adults with obesity granted in 2024. Mounjaro and Zepbound share the molecule but are labeled and prescribed as separate products. Reserve Meds coordinates Mounjaro strictly within its FDA-approved type 2 diabetes indication. Patients seeking tirzepatide for weight loss are out of Reserve Meds scope for Mounjaro routing; Zepbound is not in our current scope. In the UAE, Mounjaro is registered locally on the federal register, but allocation pressure and inconsistent stocking by titration strength have made cross-border continuity routing relevant.

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Why patients in the UAE reach for Mounjaro through NPP

The UAE has a mature pharmaceutical regulatory environment, and the three structural access gaps the framework is built to bridge apply across the catalog: registered but not stocked, registered for a different indication, or not registered at all. Mounjaro sits primarily in the first category in the UAE. Local registration is in place, but during the 2023 to 2025 demand surge several jurisdictions saw inconsistent availability of specific Mounjaro dose strengths. Titration-window strengths (2.5 mg and 5 mg) ran tighter than higher maintenance doses at certain intervals, complicating new-patient starts. Established patients on maintenance doses (7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, 15 mg) have at points lost continuity when a pharmacy ran out of their specific KwikPen strength.

A second NPP rationale applies to UAE patients whose physician prescribes Mounjaro for type 2 diabetes in a context where local cost or local stocking does not align with the patient's ongoing treatment plan. Where a UAE patient holds a documented type 2 diabetes prescription, the named-patient route lets a UAE-licensed physician import the diabetes-labeled product specifically (Mounjaro), rather than the obesity-labeled brand (Zepbound). Mounjaro and Zepbound are not interchangeable from a labeling and prescription standpoint, even though the active ingredient is identical. Reserve Meds restricts intake to the type 2 diabetes indication; patients seeking the molecule for weight loss are redirected or declined.

The EDE named-patient pathway for Mounjaro

The federal pathway is the unregistered-medicine import permit, administered through the EDE portal at ede.gov.ae from 29 December 2025 onward under Federal Decree-Law No. 38 of 2024. The framework also covers cases where a medicine is registered but not currently stocked at the timeline the clinician requires, which is the typical Mounjaro case in the UAE. The framework allows hospitals and licensed pharmaceutical establishments to import a specific medicine for a specific patient when a clinically equivalent locally registered alternative is not suitable or not available on the timeline required.

For Mounjaro the clinical-justification angle is diagnosis-specific. A complete application typically includes:

- A clinical justification letter from the treating physician (endocrinologist, diabetologist, or primary-care physician with diabetes credentials) documenting the on-label indication: adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus
- The patient's confirmed type 2 diabetes diagnosis (ICD code or equivalent), most recent HbA1c, and prior diabetes treatment history (often metformin plus a second agent)
- The treating physician's UAE medical license (MOHAP, DHA, DOH, or Sharjah Health Authority)
- An anonymised patient identifier where the EDE submission allows
- Product details: Mounjaro, tirzepatide, manufacturer Eli Lilly and Company, the specific dose-strength KwikPen requested (2.5 mg, 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, or 15 mg per 0.5 mL), pack count, intended treatment duration
- The destination dispensing facility license number and pharmacy in charge
- A cold-chain plan from the US authorised distributor through the importer to the dispensing pharmacy

Approval timelines for routine cases are typically 5 to 15 business days. Mounjaro is well-characterised, locally registered, and the EDE pathway for a registered-but-not-stocked case is the same pathway used for unregistered medicines (the permit is the unregistered-medicine import permit, but it covers the access-gap need either way). Reserve Meds will not process inquiries that include weight management or obesity language, even for patients with a type 2 diabetes diagnosis; such inquiries are redirected to the appropriate on-label channel or declined.

Where Mounjaro gets dispensed in the UAE

Mounjaro is a refrigerated injectable. The dispensing facility must hold a UAE pharmaceutical establishment license and a 2 to 8 degrees Celsius cold chain. The UAE institutions that handle named-patient cold-chain imports as established workflow include Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (M42 group), Sheikh Khalifa Medical City in Abu Dhabi (SEHA network), Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, American Hospital Dubai (Mayo Clinic Care Network), King's College Hospital London Dubai, Mediclinic City Hospital in Dubai Healthcare City, and the larger NMC Healthcare sites. The endocrinology and diabetes services at King's College Hospital London Dubai, American Hospital Dubai, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, and Mediclinic City Hospital are common homes for the Mounjaro patient cohort.

The 21-day room-temperature stability window after first removal from refrigeration (up to 30 degrees Celsius) gives Mounjaro a useful operational reserve for the patient's home use. The chain of custody from US distributor to UAE dispensing pharmacy is still temperature-monitored end to end. Smaller clinics route the case through a Dubai- or Abu Dhabi-based specialty importer; the importer holds the establishment license, files the EDE permit, performs cold-chain customs clearance, and delivers under chain-of-custody documentation.

Real cost picture for Mounjaro in the UAE

US wholesale acquisition cost per Eli Lilly's published pricing is approximately USD 1,069.08 per four-pen monthly carton, applied uniformly across all six dose strengths. Annualised, this is roughly USD 12,800 to USD 13,000 per year at WAC before any rebates. The UAE dirham is pegged to the US dollar at approximately 3.67 AED to 1 USD, so a monthly carton at US WAC translates to roughly AED 3,925 today. Cash retail pricing in UAE pharmacies for stocked product has tracked at or above US WAC; the named-patient acquisition cost is finalised only at firm-quote issuance after document review.

International cold-chain logistics typically runs USD 500 to USD 1,200 per shipment (approximately AED 1,800 to AED 4,400), with validated 2 to 8 degrees Celsius packaging, temperature loggers, and customs clearance under the EDE permit. UAE customs and permit fees are nominal relative to the drug cost. Reserve Meds' coordination fee is itemised separately. On insurance: Daman, Thiqa, GIG Gulf, Sukoon, ADNIC, and Orient each assess named-patient imports case by case. Several reimburse partially when the molecule is on the patient's diabetes formulary even if not currently stocked.

Typical timeline for Mounjaro in the UAE

For an established type 2 diabetes patient with a clean clinical-justification letter and prior treatment documentation, the typical end-to-end cycle is 2 to 5 weeks. The EDE permit step generally runs 5 to 15 business days. US-side sourcing through authorised Eli Lilly distributors adds 3 to 7 days. International cold-chain transit and UAE customs clearance under the import permit are typically 3 to 7 days. Cold-chain biologic shipments add 2 to 3 days versus an ambient-controlled product like Trikafta. Timelines are presented as typical ranges and not promises.

What your physician needs to provide

The clinical justification letter is the centre of the EDE package. For Mounjaro the letter typically includes:

- The patient's confirmed type 2 diabetes diagnosis (ICD code or equivalent), most recent HbA1c, and prior diabetes treatment history (often metformin plus a second agent, sometimes prior GLP-1 RA exposure)
- The specific on-label indication: adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus
- The current Mounjaro dose strength (2.5 mg starting dose for the first 4 weeks, 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, or 15 mg maintenance)
- The dosing plan: 2.5 mg once weekly for 4 weeks (starting dose only, not for glycemic control), then increase to 5 mg once weekly, then 2.5 mg increments after a minimum of 4

weeks on the current dose, to a maximum of 15 mg once weekly; injection sites rotated between abdomen, thigh, and upper arm
- The monitoring plan: thyroid C-cell tumor symptoms (neck mass, persistent hoarseness), pancreatitis, acute gallbladder disease (cholelithiasis, biliary colic, cholecystectomy were reported in clinical trials), hypoglycemia when combined with insulin or insulin secretagogues, acute kidney injury typically tied to volume depletion from severe GI adverse events, severe GI disease, and progression of pre-existing diabetic retinopathy
- Screening confirmation that the patient does not have a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (contraindications per the boxed warning)

The treating physician's UAE license must match the emirate of the dispensing facility.

Common questions about Mounjaro in the UAE

Can I get Mounjaro for weight loss? No. Reserve Meds coordinates Mounjaro strictly within the FDA-approved type 2 diabetes indication. The FDA-approved obesity brand of tirzepatide is Zepbound; it is a separate product, separately labeled, and currently outside Reserve Meds scope.

Will my UAE insurance cover Mounjaro through a named-patient route? Each insurer (Daman, Thiqa, GIG Gulf, Sukoon, ADNIC, Orient) assesses named-patient imports case by case. Several reimburse partially when Mounjaro is on the patient's diabetes formulary even if not currently stocked. We supply the documentation; we do not promise coverage.

What is the safety profile? The label carries a boxed warning for thyroid C-cell tumors based on rodent studies; human relevance is not established. Mounjaro is contraindicated in patients with a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2. Additional warnings cover pancreatitis, acute gallbladder disease, hypoglycemia when combined with insulin or insulin secretagogues, acute kidney injury, hypersensitivity reactions, severe GI disease, and diabetic retinopathy complications. Most common adverse reactions are gastrointestinal.

Why Mounjaro versus Ozempic? The SURPASS-2 trial published in NEJM in 2021 reported tirzepatide non-inferior and superior to once-weekly semaglutide 1 mg on HbA1c reduction in adults with type 2 diabetes. Choice between agents is a clinical decision for the prescriber, not for Reserve Meds. Ozempic carries an FDA-approved cardiovascular risk reduction indication in T2D with established CVD and a kidney indication in T2D with CKD; Mounjaro's label is glycemic control only as of this review date.

Is dose titration mandatory? Yes. Initiating at 2.5 mg for 4 weeks is the labeled starting step, primarily for gastrointestinal tolerability. The 2.5 mg dose is not intended for glycemic control on its own.

What is the typical course duration? Chronic. Tirzepatide is labeled for ongoing weekly use without a defined end point, contingent on clinical benefit and tolerability.

Where Reserve Meds fits in Mounjaro cases

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your physician, do not replace the EDE, and do not replace the dispensing pharmacy. For Mounjaro specifically we

orchestrate US-side sourcing through authorised Eli Lilly distributors (McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen / Cencora), the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs (type 2 diabetes indication template, titration reference, monitoring plan summary with the thyroid C-cell warning), validated 2 to 8 degrees Celsius cold-chain logistics under chain-of-custody, and a single named coordinator through the case. Every firm quote specifies the KwikPen dose strength because allocation and price are uniform across strengths but the SKU sourcing differs. Reserve Meds will not coordinate Mounjaro for weight-loss or obesity inquiries; those are redirected or declined.

Next step

If your physician has decided continuity on Mounjaro for your type 2 diabetes matters and local stock cannot meet the timeline, the EDE named-patient pathway is the route. Join the waitlist below and we will confirm eligibility within 24 to 48 hours and route the documentation kit to your physician.

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Review & oversight. Content on this page is reviewed by Reserve Meds's clinical and regulatory team. A US-licensed pharmacist reviews every prescription before dispensing. Regulatory posture is informational, not legal advice; case-specific questions route to retained outside counsel. Review methodology ›
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