Ozempic access in Pakistan: the DRAP Personal Use Import pathway

How Pakistani patients with type 2 diabetes obtain authentic Novo Nordisk Ozempic (semaglutide) through the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan named-patient pathway, on-label only.

Last reviewed 2026-05-12 by Reserve Meds clinical and regulatory team.

Quick orientation

Ozempic is the Novo Nordisk brand of semaglutide injection, a once-weekly GLP-1 receptor agonist approved by the US FDA for three indications: glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes (December 2017), reduction of major adverse cardiovascular events in adults with type 2 diabetes and established cardiovascular disease (January 2020), and reduction of the risk of worsening kidney disease, kidney failure, and cardiovascular death in adults with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease (January 2025). Pakistan carries one of the highest type 2 diabetes prevalence rates in the world, and Pakistani patients managing established T2D with cardiovascular or kidney complications increasingly look to authentic Novo Nordisk Ozempic for documented chain-of-custody supply. Reserve Meds coordinates only the three on-label uses through the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Special Permission framework, also known as the Personal Use Import NOC.

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Why Pakistani patients reach for Ozempic through NPP

Three patterns of access gap operate in Pakistan's specialty market: registered but not stocked, registered for a different indication, and not registered locally at all. For Ozempic the dominant pattern in Pakistan is the first. The product is recognised in regional regulatory practice and the Novo Nordisk corporate footprint includes Pakistan, but on-shelf availability at retail pharmacies in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and smaller cities has lagged demand. Global allocation pressure during the nearly three-year FDA shortage from early 2022 through February 2025 spilled into Pakistan as it did into every other market. Even after the US shortage was declared resolved in February 2025, local stock variability has persisted into 2026, particularly for the 2 mg pen and for new T2D starts.

A second, more sensitive pattern matters in Pakistan. The global viral interest in semaglutide as a weight-loss agent has produced gray-market and counterfeit channels in many South Asian and Gulf markets. WHO and multiple national regulators have issued repeated warnings since 2023 about counterfeit semaglutide pens. The lawful DSCSA-traceable route from a US authorised distributor through a documented chain of custody to a Pakistani dispensing pharmacy is the authentic alternative. Reserve Meds operates strictly within the FDA-approved Ozempic label: type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular risk reduction in T2D with CVD, and CKD progression risk reduction in T2D with CKD. We do not coordinate Ozempic for weight management; that is an off-

label use of this brand, and Wegovy is the FDA-approved obesity indication of semaglutide (covered separately on this site).

The DRAP Personal Use Import pathway for Ozempic

DRAP regulates the import of medicines through the Quality Assurance and Laboratory Testing (QA&LT) Division's Import and Export Section. For an FDA-approved medicine required for a specific named patient outside routine local stocking, the agency issues a Special Permission (Personal Use Import NOC). Applications are filed through DRAP's Online Import and Export System (OIES) by the institutional pharmacy at a tertiary hospital or by a DRAP-licensed specialty importer in Karachi or Lahore.

For Ozempic the clinical-justification angle is indication-specific and on-label. A complete application typically includes:

- A clinical justification letter from the treating endocrinologist, cardiologist, or nephrologist (depending on the indication) confirming the patient's type 2 diabetes diagnosis with ICD-10 coding, the relevant cardiovascular disease or chronic kidney disease history if those indications apply, and HbA1c, lipid, renal, and prior-therapy history
- The treating physician's PMDC license verification, with FCPS Pakistan specialty registration in endocrinology, cardiology, or nephrology where applicable
- The patient identifier: CNIC for adult patients (Ozempic is approved for adults, not pediatric patients)
- Product details: Ozempic, the specific pen presentation requested (0.25 mg or 0.5 mg starter pen, 1 mg pen, or 2 mg pen), manufacturer Novo Nordisk A/S, country of origin, pack size, and requested quantity to cover a defined course of therapy
- The destination dispensing facility's hospital pharmacy license, confirming the receiving pharmacy is licensed to handle imported pharmaceuticals and operates cold-chain (2 to 8 degrees Celsius) storage
- A manufacturer or authorised distributor letter confirming the product is genuine Novo Nordisk Ozempic sourced through the legitimate US supply chain, with batch-level traceability under DSCSA
- A validated cold-chain plan from the US source through international air freight to Karachi, Lahore, or Islamabad with continuous temperature logging

Routine personal-use cases typically clear in four to eight weeks from a complete submission. The cold-chain handling requirement adds documentation but does not by itself extend the DRAP timeline. Complex cases involving the CKD or CV indication where renal or cardiac documentation must accompany the diabetes diagnosis can extend slightly. Reserve Meds plans on the longer end of the routine range.

Where Ozempic gets dispensed in Pakistan

Ozempic is a refrigerated biologic injection. Dispensing requires 2 to 8 degrees Celsius storage and a pharmacy with continuous-temperature cold-chain capability. The institutions that handle named-patient imports of refrigerated biologics as an established workflow are concentrated in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The natural homes for Ozempic dispensing are the endocrinology, cardiology, and nephrology services at Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) in

Karachi (24/7 temperature-controlled pharmacy network), Liaquat National Hospital in Karachi, the Indus Hospital and Health Network in Karachi, Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) in Lahore for the T2D-with-CKD population, the Combined Military Hospitals (CMH) network in Rawalpindi and Lahore, and Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad.

Patients in Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Faisalabad, or smaller cities typically route to a Karachi, Lahore, or Islamabad hospital pharmacy for receipt and then continue follow-on care under their local treating physician. Reserve Meds plans the cold-chain handoff to a major-city dispensing facility; the family or treating clinic manages the in-country last-mile under cold-chain integrity rules.

Real cost picture for Ozempic in Pakistan

US wholesale acquisition cost for Ozempic as of 2025 is approximately USD 997 per 30-day pen across all three pen presentations, equating to roughly USD 12,000 per year before any rebates or assistance. Novo Nordisk has announced a significant WAC reduction effective January 1, 2027, that would bring list price to roughly USD 675 per pen. The Pakistani rupee has been volatile across the last several years; as of May 2026 the USD to PKR rate sits in the 278 to 280 range, with April 2026 CPI inflation at 10.9 percent. At current exchange rates, a USD 12,000 annual drug cost translates to roughly PKR 3.35 million, and the rupee figure can move materially over a single quote-to-shipment cycle.

Because PKR has been volatile historically and inflation is rising, Reserve Meds quotes in USD and accepts wire transfers from any USD-accessible source. International cold-chain logistics for Ozempic run higher than ambient lanes, typically USD 600 to USD 1,200 per shipment depending on quantity and route. DRAP fees and FBR Customs charges are nominal relative to the drug itself. The Reserve Meds coordination fee is itemised separately on every firm quote. On insurance, Adamjee, Jubilee, EFU, State Life, IGI, and Pak-Qatar each assess named-patient imports case by case. Most plans do not reimburse imported, unregistered specialty drugs; some pay a partial percentage when the molecule is on a global formulary equivalent. The realistic default is cash-pay, with families often consolidating funds from overseas relatives (Pakistan receives substantial remittance flows from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK, the United States, Canada, and Australia).

Typical timeline for Ozempic in Pakistan

For a patient with established type 2 diabetes, documented current Ozempic therapy or a clean prescriber letter for one of the three on-label indications, and a major-city endocrinologist or cardiologist or nephrologist, the typical end-to-end cycle is 6 to 10 weeks. The DRAP Special Permission step generally runs 4 to 8 weeks for routine cases on the OIES portal. US-side sourcing through Novo Nordisk's authorised distribution channel adds approximately 1 to 2 weeks. International cold-chain air freight and FBR Customs clearance at Karachi, Lahore, or Islamabad airport are typically 3 to 5 days under qualified passive shippers with temperature logging. The 2 to 8 degrees Celsius requirement is tight relative to ambient shipments; customs holds beyond 48 to 72 hours trigger excursion-handling protocols. Timelines are presented as typical ranges, not promises; specific dates are confirmed at firm-quote issuance.

What your physician needs to provide

The clinical justification letter for Ozempic is the centrepiece of the DRAP package. For this product the letter typically includes:

- The patient's confirmed type 2 diabetes diagnosis with ICD-10 coding, current HbA1c, prior therapy history (typically metformin, often a second oral agent), and current clinical instability or progression rationale
- For the cardiovascular indication, documentation of established cardiovascular disease (prior MI, stroke, peripheral arterial disease, or coronary revascularisation) with the relevant ICD-10 codes
- For the CKD indication, documentation of chronic kidney disease in the context of T2D, with eGFR, urine albumin to creatinine ratio, and the rationale linking the FLOW-trial regimen to the patient's clinical picture
- The dosing plan with titration schedule: 0.25 mg once weekly for 4 weeks (treatment initiation, not for glycemic control), then 0.5 mg weekly for at least 4 weeks, then escalation to 1 mg or 2 mg as clinically required, with the requested pen presentation
- The monitoring plan covering thyroid symptoms (neck mass, dysphagia, hoarseness, given the boxed warning for thyroid C-cell tumors), pancreatitis (severe persistent abdominal pain), gallbladder disease, acute kidney injury risk especially with significant GI adverse events and volume depletion, diabetic retinopathy progression where applicable, and hypoglycemia when combined with insulin or insulin secretagogues
- The contraindication check: confirmation that the patient does not have a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2
- The pharmacovigilance commitment to report adverse events through the DRAP Pharmacovigilance Centre as part of the post-import obligation

PMDC-licensed endocrinologists, cardiologists, and nephrologists at AKUH, Liaquat National, Indus, PKLI, CMH, and Shifa International hold full signing authority on Special Permission applications.

Common questions about Ozempic in Pakistan

Can I get Ozempic for weight loss? No. Reserve Meds operates strictly within the FDA-approved Ozempic label, which is type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular risk reduction in T2D with CVD, and CKD progression in T2D with CKD. Patients seeking semaglutide for weight management are out of scope for Ozempic. Wegovy is the FDA-approved obesity brand of semaglutide and is a separate product with separate access considerations.

Will Adamjee, Jubilee, EFU, or State Life cover Ozempic? Coverage for named-patient imports of unregistered or locally unstocked specialty drugs is uncommon across Pakistani health plans. Some plans pay a partial percentage on a case-by-case basis. We supply the documentation set the insurer needs; the claim itself is yours or your hospital's to file. The realistic default is cash-pay.

Is the Ozempic I get through Reserve Meds different from what's in a pharmacy in Karachi or Lahore? The product is the same Novo Nordisk Ozempic, manufactured in Denmark

and distributed through Novo Nordisk's authorised US channel. What differs is the chain of custody: Reserve Meds documents every node from US release through international air freight, Pakistani customs, and dispensing pharmacy receipt under DSCSA-traceable lots. That documentation is the value proposition versus gray-market alternatives that have circulated in regional channels since 2023.

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. Ozempic is contraindicated in patients with personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or MEN 2. Most common adverse reactions are gastrointestinal: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, constipation. Serious warnings cover acute pancreatitis, acute gallbladder disease, acute kidney injury, diabetic retinopathy progression, and hypoglycemia when combined with insulin or insulin secretagogues.

How does Sehat Sahulat interact with Ozempic? The Sehat Sahulat Program is generally structured around in-network empaneled hospital treatment rather than imported drug procurement, and the Rs. 1,000,000 per family per year ceiling does not stretch to cover a year of Ozempic therapy at US WAC. Patients can still use Sehat Sahulat for hospitalisation, cardiac care, and dialysis support while Ozempic is procured separately on a cash-pay basis.

Can the medicine be delivered to our home? The dispensing facility must be a Pakistan-licensed pharmacy with cold-chain capability. Cold-chain integrity from the dispensing pharmacy to the patient's home is the patient's clinic's responsibility under Novo Nordisk's storage requirements.

Where Reserve Meds fits in Ozempic cases

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your endocrinologist, cardiologist, or nephrologist, do not replace DRAP, and do not replace the dispensing hospital pharmacy or in-country importer. For Ozempic specifically we orchestrate US-side sourcing through Novo Nordisk's authorised distribution channel, the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs (indication-specific letter template, titration schedule reference, monitoring plan summary, DSCSA chain-of-custody attestation, DRAP pharmacovigilance reference), validated cold-chain logistics with continuous temperature monitoring, and a single named coordinator. We route any inquiry that includes weight-management language to the standing-orders escalation queue rather than processing through routine intake. T2D diagnosis confirmation, prescriber attestation tied to one of the three on-label indications, and pen-presentation specification are mandatory intake artefacts.

Next step

If your treating physician has confirmed Ozempic is the right therapy for one of the three FDA-approved indications and DRAP Special Permission 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 and to the dispensing hospital pharmacy.

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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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