Ravicti access in Egypt

EDA Personal Importation for chronic urea cycle disorder management. Lifelong therapy, coordinated end to end.

Quick orientation

Ravicti (glycerol phenylbutyrate) is an oral liquid pre-prodrug used in the chronic management of urea cycle disorders (UCDs) in patients aged two months and older. It was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration on 1 February 2013 and is manufactured by Horizon Therapeutics USA, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Amgen since October 2023. The Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) does not list Ravicti as a locally registered product, which is the structural reason families in Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, and beyond reach for the drug through the EDA Personal Importation pathway authorised under Law No. 151 of 2019. UCD detection in Egypt is growing as expanded newborn screening reaches more governorates and as metabolic genetics services at academic centres mature. For families with a confirmed UCD diagnosis in a child, the question is rarely whether to treat, and almost always how to keep supply continuous, year after year, on terms the family can sustain. Reserve Meds runs that orchestration. Reserved for you.

Why patients in Egypt need Ravicti via the named-patient pathway

UCDs are ultra-rare, with an estimated combined incidence below 1 in 35,000 live births. Local commercial registration of a chronic UCD therapy in Egypt is uneconomic for the manufacturer at that population scale, and Ravicti is one of several specialty rare-disease products that fall into Egypt's "not registered locally at all" access category alongside large segments of the orphan oncology and pediatric metabolic catalogue. The EDA Personal Importation framework exists precisely for this pattern. Egypt imports roughly USD 3 billion in finished drug product annually, and a meaningful slice of that demand sits inside small, named-patient cases rather than mass-market supply.

Ravicti's named-patient candidacy is further sharpened by the chronicity of UCD therapy. UCDs typically present in the neonatal or early pediatric period, and treatment is lifelong. A family with a UCD diagnosis must source the product continuously for the life of the child. The alternative pharmacologic treatments are limited. Sodium phenylbutyrate (Buphenyl) is also rarely registered in Egypt, and carglumic acid (Carbaglu) addresses a specific UCD subtype rather than the broader UCD population. Liver transplantation is a separate and very different decision. Pediatric metabolic geneticists at Kasr Al Ainy, Ain Shams, and the Magdi Yacoub centres routinely face this gap when an Egyptian child receives a confirmed UCD enzyme-defect diagnosis. The named-patient pathway becomes the practical, lawful route.

The EDA Personal Importation pathway for Ravicti

The Egyptian Drug Authority was created by Law No. 151 of 2019, issued in the Official Gazette on 25 August 2019, with executive regulations under Prime Minister Decision No. 777 of 2020. EDA permits the importation of unregistered medicines for a specific patient where no equivalent registered product is available locally, or where the available quantity of an equivalent registered product cannot meet the patient's clinical need. The pathway is commonly referred to as Personal Importation. The application is filed through the dispensing institution's import pharmacy, typically a tertiary academic centre such as Kasr Al Ainy or Ain Shams, or a private specialty hospital such as Dar Al Fouad or As-Salam International.

For Ravicti specifically, the clinical justification letter your child's treating physician prepares carries weight in three areas. First, the letter documents the molecular genetic confirmation of the specific UCD enzyme defect (OTC deficiency, CPS1 deficiency, ASS1, ASL, ARG1, or a related variant). EDA reviewers look for the confirmatory genetic report or the equivalent enzyme assay, not clinical suspicion alone. Second, the letter sets out the prior management trajectory, including dietary protein restriction, amino acid supplementation, and any prior trial of sodium phenylbutyrate where available, with documented intolerance or inadequate ammonia control as the trigger for moving to Ravicti. Third, the letter confirms that

this drug is required rather than a locally available alternative, because EDA's pathway is grounded in the no-equivalent-registered-product test.

The standard application package includes the clinical justification letter on hospital letterhead, the most recent prescription specifying brand name, generic name, strength, and quantity, a copy of the patient's national ID card or passport, the treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate (EMS) membership number and Ministry of Health licence reference, the manufacturer and country of origin details, the destination dispensing facility's licence, and a chain-of-custody plan. Ravicti is room-temperature stable (20 to 25 degrees Celsius with permitted excursions to 15 to 30), so the chain-of-custody documentation does not require cold-chain validation, which simplifies one part of the file relative to refrigerated biologics. Routine EDA Personal Importation authorisations for well-documented rare-disease cases are typically processed in a 3 to 6 week window once a complete package is filed, though complex pediatric metabolic cases can extend further. EDA reserves discretion at every step. Reserve Meds does not file with EDA and is not an importer of record in Egypt.

Where Ravicti gets dispensed in Egypt

The institutions equipped to dispense an imported pediatric UCD therapy under a routine EDA personal-import workflow include the major academic and private specialty hospitals with established import pharmacy infrastructure. Cairo University Hospitals (Kasr Al Ainy) is the oldest and largest academic hospital network in Egypt and the Middle East, with a Drug Information Center, dedicated pediatric and metabolic services, and an institutional import workflow. Ain Shams University Hospitals carry strong pediatric, hepatology, and metabolic services and routine experience with imported specialty medicines. Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt 57357, while oncology-focused, operates a Personalized Medication Management Unit (the first pharmacogenetics unit of its kind in Egypt and the Arab world) and supports complex pediatric rare-disease cases that overlap with metabolic dosing precision. Dar Al Fouad Hospital in 6th of October City is JCI-accredited and part of the Alameda Healthcare Group, with established import pharmacy capacity. As-Salam International Hospital and the Cleopatra Hospitals Group also handle named-patient cases as routine practice. The Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation is included where UCD cases involve concurrent cardiovascular evaluation. For families whose pediatric metabolic geneticist is at a regional hospital outside this network, the practical path is co-management with one of the above centres, or routing through a Cairo-based licensed specialty importer.

Real cost picture for Ravicti in Egypt

Reserve Meds quotes patients in USD and accepts USD wire transfers. The EGP has lost more than 70 percent of its value against the US dollar since early 2022, with the USD/EGP rate near 52 to 53 in May 2026, and quoting in USD insulates the family from intra-case currency drift between quote and shipment. Three line items shape the firm quote:

- **Drug acquisition cost.** US wholesale acquisition cost for Ravicti is widely reported in the range of approximately USD 65,000 to USD 120,000 per patient per year for typical weight-based pediatric doses, scaling substantially higher in adolescents and adults at the upper end of the dosing range. Published price observatories have reported annual list prices up to approximately USD 664,000 to USD 793,000 for adult-equivalent dosing at higher weights, reflecting how strongly per-patient cost scales with body weight and dietary protein intake. The per-bottle (25 mL) list price has been reported at approximately USD 5,200 to USD 5,300 in recent years.
- **International ambient logistics, US to Cairo.** Because Ravicti is room-temperature stable, the logistics surcharge sits at the lower end of the Egypt corridor range, typically USD 400 to USD 1,500 per shipment depending on volume and route through Cairo International Airport.
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