

Rinvoq

Lebanon · access guide

How to access Rinvoq from Lebanon, the named-patient import pathway, 2026

By Reserve Meds, Clinical and regulatory team. Last reviewed 2026-05-13.

A Lebanese patient with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, and giant cell arteritis may receive a prescription for Rinvoq (upadacitinib) from their treating rheumatologist, dermatologist, or gastroenterologist depending on indication. Rinvoq is FDA-approved in the United States and manufactured by AbbVie. It is an oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor administered by oral tablet. Local availability of Rinvoq in Lebanon can be inconsistent: the drug may not be on every specialty pharmacy's standing formulary, the specific indication may not match what is locally registered, or the strength required may be back-ordered. When that happens, a named-patient import pathway through MoPH Lebanon remains a legitimate route for the patient whose physician has already prescribed the drug.

This guide explains the pathway, the documentation your physician needs, typical costs and indicative timing, and where Reserve Meds fits in.

The clinical situation

Rinvoq is an oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor. Mechanism: a selective oral inhibitor of Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) signaling. Dosing: 15 mg, 30 mg, or 45 mg orally once daily depending on indication, per FDA labeling. Baseline workup per FDA labeling includes tuberculosis screen, hepatitis B and C serologies, complete blood count, liver function tests, lipid panel, and venous thromboembolism risk assessment. The FDA boxed warning covers serious infections, mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events in smokers and older patients with cardiovascular risk factors, malignancies, and thrombosis. Other important warnings include serious infections including tuberculosis and opportunistic infections, mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events including in current or past smokers and patients aged 50 and older with a cardiovascular risk factor, malignancies including lymphoma and skin cancer, thrombosis including pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, and laboratory abnormalities including lipid elevations and hepatic transaminases. Your specialist will discuss the risk-benefit profile and schedule monitoring before initiating therapy.

Is Rinvoq legally importable into Lebanon?

Yes, through the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) named-patient and personal-use import framework, coordinated with the treating facility's pharmacy. Lebanon has an established pathway for specialty medicines approved by reference authorities (US FDA, EMA, MHRA) but not stocked or registered for the specific indication locally.

The MoPH Lebanon named-patient route allows a Lebanese-licensed physician to request import of a medicine when: (a) the medicine is approved by a recognised reference authority, (b) no clinically equivalent locally registered alternative is suitable for the patient's indication and history, (c) the treating physician takes clinical responsibility for use, and (d) chain of custody is documented from the US source to the administering facility. Applications are typically filed through the dispensing institution's import pharmacy on the physician's behalf, with approval issued on a per-patient, per-cycle quantity basis.

How the pathway works, step by step

1. **Consultation with your treating specialist.** The prescribing decision is clinical. Your specialist documents the indication, prior therapies where relevant, and rationale for Rinvoq.
2. **Baseline screening.** Tuberculosis screen, hepatitis B and C serologies, complete blood count, liver function tests, lipid panel, and venous thromboembolism risk assessment are confirmed and documented.
3. **MoPH Lebanon named-patient application.** Your specialist or the facility's import pharmacy files the application with clinical rationale, patient reference, product strength, quantity requested, and chain-of-custody plan.
4. **US-side sourcing.** Reserve Meds coordinates with our US-licensed specialty wholesale partner to secure product from AbbVie's authorised distribution under DSCSA chain-of-custody.
5. **Arrival and first dose.** The dispensing pharmacy releases product against the physician's prescription, and your specialist initiates therapy.

What documentation your physician needs

Your physician will typically need to provide:

- A clinical rationale letter confirming diagnosis, prior therapies where relevant, and Rinvoq as the indicated next step
- Verification of their Lebanese medical licence
- A patient identifier, anonymised reference where privacy is preferred
- Documented pre-treatment screening consistent with FDA labeling (see above)
- The planned dosing regimen (15 mg, 30 mg, or 45 mg orally once daily depending on indication, per FDA labeling)
- A monitoring plan covering TB and HBV screen, cardiovascular and VTE risk profile, and lipid baseline

Reserve Meds provides a physician documentation kit tailored for JAK inhibitor therapies, including the templates MoPH Lebanon reviewers commonly request.

Typical costs and indicative timing

Reserve Meds gives you a drug-only reference range plus a transparent delivered quote at intake. As an illustrative composite case, the US cash-pay reference range for a typical month of daily dosing of Rinvoq sits in an indicative 2026 band of approximately USD 5,500 to 7,000. International logistics, MoPH Lebanon documentation handling, and concierge coordination add incremental cost. The delivered quote we issue at intake shows each line separately.

Indicative timing for first dose after cohort intake opens is approximately 2 to 5 weeks from the moment a complete application is submitted, assuming the documentation package is clean on first pass. Refills ship on a rolling cadence aligned to the dosing schedule.

Service availability is limited to our first cohort. All timelines are indicative, not guarantees.

Where Reserve Meds fits in

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

- **Sourcing.** Through our US-licensed specialty wholesale partner, operating under DSCSA chain-of-custody from manufacturer to export.
- **Documentation.** Regulatory package tailored for your physician and for MoPH Lebanon review, including JAK inhibitor class templates.
- **Logistics.** Internationally tracked shipment to your named dispensing facility with tamper-evident packaging.
- **Concierge case lead.** A named point of contact for your family and your physician across the full case arc.

We are a coordinator. We are not the prescriber, not a pharmacy, and not a dispensing facility. All clinical decisions remain with your treating specialist, and dispensing sits with the licensed Lebanese pharmacy of record. Reserve Meds operates on cash-pay only and does not bill insurance.

Frequently asked

Is this legal in Lebanon? Yes, when executed through the MoPH Lebanon named-patient and personal-use framework with appropriate documentation, clinical rationale, and a licensed dispensing facility. The pathway is routinely used across oncology, rare disease, and immunology at Lebanese tertiary centers.

What about the boxed warning? The FDA boxed warning on Rinvoq covers serious infections, mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events in smokers and older patients with cardiovascular risk factors, malignancies, and thrombosis. Your specialist performs the risk-benefit assessment, schedules monitoring, and counsels the patient per labeling. Reserve Meds does not make that clinical judgement, your physician does.

Will my private health insurance cover this? Cash-pay is the default posture. Cash-pay is the default posture in Lebanon; some private plans cover specialty imports case-by-case. We supply documentation for your submission but do not process insurance claims.

What if my physician has not filed a named-patient request before? Named-patient import is an institutional process most major Lebanese tertiary centers (the American University of Beirut Medical Center, Hotel-Dieu de France, and Clemenceau Medical Center) have encountered. Our documentation kit is written for first-time applicants and tracks what MoPH Lebanon reviewers commonly ask for.

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.

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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