Vpriv

Saudi Arabia · access guide

How to access VPRIV from Saudi Arabia, the named-patient import pathway, 2026

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

An Saudi Arabian patient with Gaucher disease type 1 may receive a prescription for VPRIV (velaglucerase alfa) from their treating metabolic specialist, haematologist, or paediatrician as enzyme-replacement therapy. VPRIV is FDA-approved in the United States for long-term treatment of Gaucher type 1 in adults and paediatric patients. In Saudi Arabia, VPRIV may not be routinely stocked in hospital pharmacies because Gaucher disease is rare, which is why your specialist may be coordinating a personal-import pathway on your behalf for ongoing infusion supply.

This guide explains the legal pathway, what documentation your physician needs, typical timing and cost bands, and where Reserve Meds fits in.

The clinical situation

VPRIV is an intravenous enzyme-replacement therapy (recombinant human glucocerebrosidase) administered as a 60-minute infusion once every two weeks. Eligibility requires biochemical and/or genetic confirmation of Gaucher type 1. The manufacturer is Takeda (via Shire). Dosing is typically 60 units/kg IV every two weeks, adjustable based on response. The product requires refrigerated storage (2-8 degrees C) and reconstitution before infusion. Monitoring includes haematology, spleen/liver volumes, bone parameters, and infusion-reaction surveillance. Your specialist will confirm diagnosis and arrange infusion logistics.

Is VPRIV legally importable into Saudi Arabia?

Yes, through the personal-import provision recognised under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the framework administered by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (SFDA). The framework allows a patient, through their treating physician, to import a quantity of a medicine for personal use when the medicine has been approved by a recognised foreign regulator (FDA qualifies) and is prescribed for their named clinical need. Rare-disease enzyme-replacement therapies are a common category of personal-import in Saudi Arabia.

The named-patient mechanism rests on four anchors: (a) the medicine is approved by a recognised reference authority such as the FDA, (b) no clinically equivalent locally registered alternative is suitable for the patient, (c) the treating physician takes clinical responsibility for use, and (d) the importing party documents chain of custody from the US source to the patient. Because VPRIV is cold-chain, the chain-of-custody documentation includes continuous temperature logging.

How the pathway works, step by step

1. **Consultation with your treating specialist.** The decision to prescribe VPRIV is clinical, based on Gaucher type 1 confirmation and long-term management plan. Your specialist documents the rationale.
2. **Infusion-facility identification.** A hospital or infusion centre equipped for bi-weekly enzyme-replacement infusions accepts the case.
3. **Personal-import documentation.** Reserve Meds prepares the personal-import package for customs clearance, including the physician letter, prescription, patient identifier, and chain-of-custody with temperature logging.
4. **US-side sourcing.** Reserve Meds coordinates with our US-licensed specialty wholesale partner to secure product from the manufacturer's authorised distribution chain under DSCSA.
5. **Cold-chain shipment.** VPRIV travels with validated cold-chain packaging and continuous temperature logging end to end.
6. **Arrival and infusion.** The infusion centre receives the product and administers under your specialist's care. Reserve Meds coordinates the next cycle ahead of depletion to avoid treatment gaps.

What documentation your physician needs

Your physician will typically need to provide:

- A clinical rationale letter confirming Gaucher type 1 diagnosis and VPRIV as the indicated long-term therapy
- Verification of their Saudi Arabian medical registration (state medical council)
- A current prescription naming the product, dose (units/kg), and infusion schedule
- Patient identifier (anonymised reference where possible)
- The identified infusion facility and its cold-chain handling capability

Reserve Meds provides a physician documentation kit bundling the templates Saudi Arabian customs and SFDA reviewers expect to see for personal-import of cold-chain enzyme-replacement therapies.

Costs and timing

VPRIV's US cash-pay drug-only reference price varies with patient weight because dosing is weight-based. A typical adult annual cost sits in an indicative 2026 drug-only range (delivered quote issued at intake) of roughly USD 300,000-450,000 for ongoing bi-weekly infusions. Logistics, cold-chain shipment, and concierge coordination add incremental cost; Reserve Meds issues a full transparent quote at the start of intake.

Indicative timing for first shipment arrival after cohort intake opens is 7-14 days from the moment a complete dossier is assembled. Subsequent cycles are scheduled to match the bi-weekly infusion calendar.

Fulfillment 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.

Reserve Meds's role

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

- **Sourcing.** Through our US-licensed specialty wholesale partner, operating under DSCSA chain-of-custody.
- **Documentation.** Personal-import documentation package for your physician and for Saudi Arabian customs handling.
- **Logistics.** Cold-chain shipment and chain-of-custody coordination with temperature logging.
- **Concierge case lead.** A named point of contact for your family and your physician throughout the process.

What we do not do: we are not the prescriber, we do not practise medicine, and we are not the dispensing pharmacy. All clinical decisions remain with your treating metabolic specialist and the infusion facility.

Frequently asked

Is this legal in Saudi Arabia? Yes, when executed through the personal-import provision under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act with appropriate physician documentation. See our trust and compliance page.

What if the cold chain breaks? Our protocol logs temperature continuously; any excursion is assessed against manufacturer stability data. If the product is compromised, we re-source at our cost per service terms and reschedule infusion with the facility.

Is VPRIV the same as Cerezyme? Both are enzyme-replacement therapies for Gaucher type 1 with similar efficacy profiles; switching between them is a clinical decision made by your specialist. We do not influence choice.

Will private insurance cover this? Cash-pay is the default. Some Saudi Arabian private insurers and patient-assistance programmes reimburse named-patient rare-disease imports on case-by-case approval; we supply documentation for your submission but do not process 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.

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.
reservemeds.com · hello@reservemeds.com