Wegovy access in Egypt: the EDA named-patient pathway

How patients in Egypt obtain Wegovy (semaglutide injection 2.4 mg) for chronic weight management and cardiovascular risk reduction through the Egyptian Drug Authority personal importation framework.

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

Quick orientation

Wegovy is the Novo Nordisk brand name for semaglutide injection 2.4 mg once weekly, approved by the US FDA on 4 June 2021 for chronic weight management in adults with obesity (BMI 30 or higher) or overweight (BMI 27 or higher) with at least one weight-related comorbidity, expanded on 23 December 2022 to pediatric patients aged 12 and older with BMI at or above the 95th percentile, and expanded again on 8 March 2024 to reduce cardiovascular death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, and nonfatal stroke in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight, the first weight-management drug ever granted a cardiovascular indication. Egypt has one of the highest adult obesity prevalence rates in the world, and demand for authentic Wegovy is significant. Local availability is uneven and counterfeit semaglutide pens have circulated in regional gray-market channels since 2023. DSCSA-traceable supply through the EDA personal importation pathway is the legitimate route, and authenticity is the central proposition.

Reserved for you.

Why patients in Egypt reach for Wegovy through NPP

Egypt's adult obesity prevalence sits among the highest globally, and the population eligible under the FDA Wegovy label is substantial. Three structural gaps repeatedly drive patients to a named-patient pathway. First, on-shelf availability has lagged demand since the molecule launched, even where local registration exists. Novo Nordisk's global fill-finish capacity was on the FDA Drug Shortage List from March 2022 through October 2024, with spot shortages on individual titration strengths persisting into 2025 and 2026 as the company prioritises maintenance-dose supply. Second, the EGP has lost more than 70 percent of its value against the dollar since early 2022, and the local-currency cost of imported specialty injectables has risen sharply, pushing families with USD funding access toward cross-border cash-pay channels.

Third, and most important for Egypt specifically, the WHO and multiple national regulators have issued repeated warnings since 2023 about counterfeit semaglutide pens circulating in unauthorised channels across MENA, Latin America, and parts of Asia. For a chronic therapy that is self-administered weekly and that families pay for out of pocket, authenticity is the value proposition. DSCSA-traceable supply from a US authorised distributor of Novo Nordisk, with end-to-end chain-of-custody documentation from manufacturer through to the dispensing hospital pharmacy in Cairo, is the difference between a verifiable product and a gray-market pen of

unknown origin. Reserve Meds does not source from compounded or gray-market channels; the molecule remains under patent in the US through the 2031 to 2033 windows.

The EDA personal importation pathway for Wegovy

EDA was created by Law No. 151 of 2019, issued in the Official Gazette on 25 August 2019, with executive regulations issued by Prime Minister Decision No. 777 of 2020 on 29 March 2020. EDA is a public service authority affiliated with the Prime Minister, consolidating functions previously held by NODCAR, NORCB, and the Ministry of Health's Central Administration of Pharmaceutical Affairs. The EDA Drug Registration Sector handles registration files, and the Egyptian Pharmacovigilance Center (EPVC) handles post-market safety.

EDA permits the importation of unregistered or stocked-but-unavailable medicines for a specific patient when an equivalent registered product cannot meet the clinical need. This is the pathway commonly described as Personal Importation, with Special Access and Compassionate Use appearing as variations in EDA correspondence. The application is filed through the dispensing institution's import pharmacy, typically a private specialty hospital, a university hospital import desk, or a licensed Cairo-based specialty importer.

For Wegovy the clinical justification angle is BMI- and comorbidity-specific. A complete application typically includes:

- A clinical justification letter on hospital letterhead from the treating endocrinologist, internal medicine physician, bariatric specialist, or cardiologist, documenting the FDA-approved on-label indication: BMI 30 or higher, or BMI 27 or higher with at least one weight-related comorbid condition (hypertension, type 2 diabetes, or dyslipidemia), or established cardiovascular disease with obesity or overweight for the CV indication, or pediatric BMI at or above the 95th percentile for ages 12 and older
- A recent prescription specifying brand name (Wegovy), generic name (semaglutide injection 2.4 mg), pen strength (0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.7, or 2.4 mg, plus the 7.2 mg presentation approved in the UK and EU in late 2025 and early 2026, US availability to be confirmed against the current US label), dosage form, and quantity
- A patient identifier and the treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership number and Ministry of Health licence reference
- Product details: manufacturer Novo Nordisk, country of origin (United States), FDA approval reference, shelf life, storage conditions (refrigerated 2 to 8 degrees Celsius)
- The destination dispensing facility licence and a cold-chain plan with continuous temperature monitoring and excursion logging from manufacturer to dispensing pharmacy

Routine EDA personal-import authorisations for well-documented endocrinology and cardiology cases typically run in a 3 to 6 week window once a complete package is submitted. Complex cases involving the pediatric indication or the CV indication often involve additional documentation review and may extend. EDA reserves discretion at every step. Reserve Meds does not promise EDA timelines and is not the filer.

Where Wegovy gets dispensed in Egypt

Wegovy is a refrigerated biologic that the patient or caregiver self-administers once weekly by subcutaneous injection, so the dispensing institution is typically the hospital outpatient pharmacy

or a licensed specialty importer pharmacy that hands the pen to the patient under chain-of-custody documentation. The Egyptian institutions with the cold-chain infrastructure and the endocrinology, bariatric, or cardiology workflow to handle Wegovy as routine include Cairo University Hospitals (Kasr Al Ainy), the largest academic hospital network in Egypt and the Middle East; Ain Shams University Hospitals; Dar Al Fouad Hospital (Alameda Healthcare Group, JCI-accredited, with a long-standing Cleveland Clinic cooperation agreement since 1999); As-Salam International Hospital in Cairo, with leading cardiac and metabolic programmes; the Cleopatra Hospitals Group facilities, the largest private hospital group in Egypt; and the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation for patients whose pathway is anchored on the cardiovascular indication.

For pediatric patients aged 12 and older, the pediatric units at Kasr Al Ainy and Ain Shams handle the case alongside the family's primary endocrinologist, with weight-adjusted dosing documentation. Smaller clinics outside Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria typically route Wegovy cases through a Cairo-based licensed specialty importer that files the EDA permit and delivers under chain-of-custody to the prescribing physician's outpatient pharmacy. Cairo International Airport is the dominant cold-chain pharmaceutical import gateway, with secondary capacity at Alexandria.

Real cost picture for Wegovy in Egypt

Reserve Meds quotes Egyptian patients in US dollars and accepts USD wire transfers. The EGP has lost more than 70 percent of its value against the dollar since early 2022, with the USD/EGP rate near 52 to 53 in May 2026. Quoting in USD insulates the patient from intra-case currency drift, which matters meaningfully for a chronic weekly therapy filled month after month over multiple years (discontinuation is associated with substantial weight regain in published follow-up data).

US wholesale acquisition cost for Wegovy is publicly listed by Novo Nordisk at approximately USD 1,349 per 28-day supply, or roughly USD 16,000 to USD 17,600 per year at list. The international named-patient acquisition cost for Egyptian patients sits between US WAC and confidential payer prices in Europe and is finalised only on firm-quote issuance after document review. International cold-chain logistics from US source to Cairo typically runs USD 400 to USD 1,500 per shipment depending on volume and route, with continuous temperature monitoring required throughout. EDA permit handling fees on the Egyptian side are nominal relative to the drug itself. On the insurance side, Bupa Egypt, AXA Egypt, MetLife Egypt, Allianz Egypt, Misr Insurance, and MedGulf Egypt each assess named-patient imports case by case, with chronic weight-management coverage variable by carrier and plan. UHIA coverage for specialty imports is not yet the practical funding path for most patients.

Typical timeline for Wegovy in Egypt

For an adult patient with a clean BMI documentation, comorbidity confirmation, and an endocrinologist or bariatric specialist letter, the typical end-to-end cycle is 5 to 9 weeks. The EDA permit step generally runs 3 to 6 weeks. US-side sourcing through the Novo Nordisk authorised distributor network adds approximately 1 to 2 weeks, with allocation discipline on individual titration strengths still surfacing intermittently. International cold-chain transit and Egyptian customs clearance under the import permit are typically 4 to 7 days, with the unopened-pen 2 to 8 degree Celsius stability envelope and the 28-day room-temperature stability after first use accommodating that window. Cases involving the pediatric or CV indication may extend by 1 to 2 weeks for additional documentation review. The 16-week dose titration schedule (0.25 mg weeks

1-4, 0.5 mg weeks 5-8, 1 mg weeks 9-12, 1.7 mg weeks 13-16, 2.4 mg maintenance from week 17) means the first several monthly fills are at lower strengths. Timelines are typical ranges, not promises.

What your physician needs to provide

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

- The FDA-approved on-label indication: BMI 30 or higher, or BMI 27 or higher with at least one weight-related comorbidity (hypertension, T2D, dyslipidemia); or established CVD with obesity or overweight for the CV indication; or pediatric BMI at or above the 95th percentile for ages 12 and older
- Current BMI calculation with height, weight, and date; documentation of the qualifying comorbidity where applicable; for CV indication, documentation of the qualifying cardiovascular event or established disease
- The titration plan: 0.25 mg weekly for 4 weeks, then 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg in 4-week increments, with 2.4 mg as the maintenance dose from week 17 onward; temporary down-titration to 1.7 mg with a retry to 2.4 mg after 4 weeks if 2.4 mg is not tolerated
- Confirmation of no personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2, which are contraindications based on the boxed warning for thyroid C-cell tumours observed in rodent studies (human relevance is undetermined)
- Counselling on the monitoring plan: signs of acute pancreatitis (severe persistent abdominal pain), acute gallbladder disease, acute kidney injury particularly with GI adverse events causing dehydration, hypoglycemia when used with insulin or sulfonylureas, diabetic retinopathy progression in patients with T2D, increased resting heart rate, hypersensitivity reactions, and class-labelled suicidal behaviour and ideation surveillance
- The duration framing: chronic therapy, with discontinuation associated with substantial weight regain over 6 to 12 months in published follow-up cohorts

The treating physician's Egyptian Medical Syndicate membership and Ministry of Health licence are the cornerstone of the application. Endocrinologists, internal medicine physicians, bariatric specialists, cardiologists (for the CV indication), and pediatric endocrinologists (for the pediatric indication) all have signing authority.

Common questions about Wegovy in Egypt

How is authenticity guaranteed given the counterfeit warnings? All Reserve Meds Wegovy supply comes from a DSCSA-traceable US authorised distributor of Novo Nordisk, with end-to-end chain-of-custody documentation from manufacturer to the dispensing hospital pharmacy in Egypt. We do not source from gray-market, compounded, or unauthorised channels. The molecule remains under patent in the US, and any product offered as "generic Wegovy" or "compounded semaglutide" in regional channels is not from Novo Nordisk.

Will my insurance cover Wegovy? Each insurer assesses named-patient imports case by case. Chronic weight-management coverage is variable across carriers and plans. We supply the

documentation the insurer would request; the claim itself remains with you or the dispensing hospital. Many Egyptian families reimburse themselves later if a portion is covered.

How do we handle USD payment given EGP volatility? Reserve Meds quotes in USD and accepts USD wire transfers. Many Egyptian families coordinate USD funds via relatives in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, or the US. The transparent USD quote means you know exactly what to wire regardless of intra-case EGP movement.

What about the boxed warning? Wegovy carries a boxed warning for risk of thyroid C-cell tumors, including medullary thyroid carcinoma, based on rodent studies. Human relevance is undetermined. Wegovy is contraindicated in patients with a personal or family history of MTC or MEN 2.

Is Wegovy different from Ozempic? Both are semaglutide. Ozempic is approved for type 2 diabetes, CV risk reduction in T2D with CVD, and CKD risk reduction in T2D with CKD. Wegovy is approved for chronic weight management, pediatric chronic weight management (ages 12 and older), and CV risk reduction in adults with established CVD and obesity or overweight. The two are not interchangeable from a labelling and prescription standpoint.

What about Zepbound (tirzepatide)? Zepbound is Eli Lilly's GIP/GLP-1 dual agonist approved for chronic weight management. Choice between semaglutide and tirzepatide is clinician-driven. Reserve Meds does not steer between products.

Where Reserve Meds fits in Wegovy cases

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your endocrinologist, bariatric specialist, or cardiologist; we do not replace EDA; and we do not replace the dispensing pharmacy. For Wegovy specifically we orchestrate the US-side sourcing through a DSCSA-traceable authorised distributor of Novo Nordisk, prepare the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs (BMI and comorbidity letter template, titration schedule, monitoring plan summary), coordinate the international 2 to 8 degree Celsius cold-chain logistics with continuous temperature logging to Cairo, and run a single named coordinator throughout the case in English and Arabic. Pen presentation must be specified on the firm quote because allocation and price differ by titration step. Recurring monthly fills are the realistic cadence given the maintenance-therapy nature of the molecule.

Next step

If your physician has decided Wegovy is the right next step for your case and authenticity is the priority, the DSCSA-traceable named-patient pathway through EDA 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.

Reserved for you.

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 ›

Last medically reviewed: 2026-05-12.