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Wegovy access in Pakistan: the DRAP Personal Use Import pathway

How Pakistani patients obtain authentic Novo Nordisk Wegovy (semaglutide 2.4 mg) for chronic weight management and cardiovascular risk reduction through the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan named-patient pathway.

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

Quick orientation

Wegovy is the Novo Nordisk brand of semaglutide injection 2.4 mg, a once-weekly GLP-1 receptor agonist approved by the US FDA for three indications: chronic weight management in adults with obesity (BMI 30 or higher) or overweight (BMI 27 or higher with at least one weight-related comorbidity) (June 2021), pediatric chronic weight management in patients aged 12 and older with BMI at or above the 95th percentile (December 2022), and cardiovascular risk reduction in adults with established cardiovascular disease and either obesity or overweight (March 2024, the first weight-management drug ever granted a cardiovascular indication). Obesity prevalence in Pakistan has been rising sharply in urban centers, particularly Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. Pakistani patients meeting the FDA label criteria increasingly seek authentic Novo Nordisk Wegovy for documented chain-of-custody supply through the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Special Permission framework, also known as the Personal Use Import NOC.

Reserved for you.

Why Pakistani patients reach for Wegovy through NPP

Three patterns of access gap operate in Pakistan's specialty market. For Wegovy two converging patterns dominate. First, Wegovy is not consistently stocked through routine retail channels in Pakistan, and the local pharmacy footprint for the 2.4 mg pen presentation is concentrated at a small number of urban specialty pharmacies in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. Second, the global viral interest in semaglutide for weight management has produced gray-market and counterfeit channels in MENA and South Asia. WHO and multiple national regulators have issued repeated warnings since 2023 about counterfeit semaglutide pens circulating in unauthorised channels. 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 that Reserve Meds offers.

Wegovy is registered in many major markets (EMA, MHRA, Health Canada, PMDA Japan, SFDA Saudi Arabia, CDSCO India) but the Pakistani regulatory and stocking footprint is uneven. Patient files arriving at Reserve Meds intake typically reflect three profiles: an adult Pakistani patient with obesity and one or more weight-related comorbidities (hypertension, type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia) under the care of an endocrinologist or internist at AKUH, Liaquat National, or Shifa; an adult patient with established cardiovascular disease pursuing the March 2024 cardiovascular indication; and an adolescent patient with severe obesity meeting the pediatric

eligibility threshold under specialist supervision. All three routes are on-label and within the Reserve Meds scope. Brand authenticity is the value proposition versus regional gray-market alternatives, and the molecule remains under patent globally, so no generic semaglutide is lawfully available.

The DRAP Personal Use Import pathway for Wegovy

DRAP regulates the import of medicines through the Quality Assurance and Laboratory Testing (QA<) 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 Wegovy the clinical-justification angle is indication-specific. A complete application typically includes:

- A clinical justification letter from the treating endocrinologist, internist, cardiologist, or (for adolescent cases) pediatric specialist with appropriate sub-specialty registration, confirming the FDA-aligned indication: adult chronic weight management with BMI and comorbidity documentation, pediatric chronic weight management with BMI percentile evidence, or cardiovascular risk reduction with established CVD documentation
- The treating physician's PMDC license verification, with FCPS Pakistan specialist registration where applicable
- The patient identifier: CNIC for adult patients, B-Form for minors (adolescent cases age 12 and older)
- Product details: Wegovy, the specific pen presentation in the titration sequence (0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, or 2.4 mg maintenance pen), manufacturer Novo Nordisk A/S, country of origin, pack size, and quantity to cover a defined treatment course
- The destination dispensing facility's hospital pharmacy license, confirming the receiving pharmacy is licensed to handle imported pharmaceuticals and operates 2 to 8 degrees Celsius cold-chain storage
- A manufacturer or authorised distributor letter confirming the product is genuine Novo Nordisk Wegovy 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 28-day room-temperature stability window once a Wegovy pen is removed from refrigeration provides usable slack during transit, but the underlying handling class remains refrigerated biologic. Reserve Meds plans on the longer end of the routine DRAP range.

Where Wegovy gets dispensed in Pakistan

Wegovy 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 established workflow are concentrated in

Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The natural homes for Wegovy dispensing are the endocrinology, cardiology, and obesity-medicine 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 for the comorbidity-heavy population, the Combined Military Hospitals (CMH) network in Rawalpindi and Lahore, and Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad. For adolescent cases, the pediatric endocrinology services at AKUH and the Children's Hospital and Institute of Child Health in Lahore are the natural dispensing partners.

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; cold-chain integrity from the dispensing pharmacy to the patient's home is the responsibility of the local treating clinic under Novo Nordisk storage requirements.

Real cost picture for Wegovy in Pakistan

US wholesale acquisition cost for Wegovy is approximately USD 1,349 per 28-day supply, or roughly USD 16,000 to USD 17,600 per year at list. 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 17,000 annual drug cost translates to roughly PKR 4.7 million, and the rupee figure can move materially over a single quote-to-shipment cycle.

Because PKR has been volatile historically and inflation is again rising, Reserve Meds quotes in USD and accepts wire transfers from any USD-accessible source. International cold-chain logistics for Wegovy 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. Weight-management therapy is broadly excluded from Pakistani health plan formularies even when locally registered alternatives exist; the cardiovascular-indication framing may improve coverage discussion for patients with established CVD, but the realistic default is cash-pay. Families with overseas relatives often consolidate funds in USD before disbursing.

Typical timeline for Wegovy in Pakistan

For a patient with documented BMI and comorbidity profile aligning to the FDA label, a major-city endocrinologist or internist or cardiologist, and a defined titration plan, 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. Because Wegovy is intended as long-term maintenance therapy, recurring quarterly fills are the realistic cadence after the first cycle. 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 Wegovy is the centrepiece of the DRAP package. For this product the letter typically includes:

- For adult chronic weight management, documentation of BMI 30 or higher, or BMI 27 or higher with at least one weight-related comorbidity (hypertension, type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia), and confirmation that the patient is engaged in a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity regimen as the FDA-labeled adjunct
- For pediatric chronic weight management (ages 12 and older), documentation of BMI at or above the 95th percentile standardised for age and sex, with pediatric specialist supervision
- For cardiovascular risk reduction, documentation of established cardiovascular disease (prior MI, stroke, peripheral arterial disease, or coronary revascularisation) plus obesity or overweight, with the relevant ICD-10 codes
- The dosing plan with the 16-week titration schedule: 0.25 mg weeks 1 to 4, 0.5 mg weeks 5 to 8, 1 mg weeks 9 to 12, 1.7 mg weeks 13 to 16, then 2.4 mg maintenance from week 17 onward, with the requested pen presentations sequenced to cover the titration
- 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 GI adverse events and volume depletion, diabetic retinopathy progression where applicable, increased resting heart rate, hypersensitivity reactions, and suicidal behaviour or ideation as a class-labeled concern
- 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, internists, cardiologists, and pediatric specialists at AKUH, Liaquat National, Indus, CMH, Shifa International, and Children's Hospital Lahore hold full signing authority on Special Permission applications.

Common questions about Wegovy in Pakistan

Is Wegovy different from Ozempic? The molecule (semaglutide) is identical. The two products are differentiated by approved indication and maintenance dose. Wegovy is FDA-approved for chronic weight management and cardiovascular risk reduction in obesity or overweight, titrated to a 2.4 mg maintenance dose. Ozempic is FDA-approved for type 2 diabetes, CV risk reduction in T2D with CVD, and CKD progression in T2D with CKD, titrated to a 1 mg or 2 mg maintenance dose. Reserve Meds will not substitute one for the other; we source to the patient's on-label indication.

How do I know the Wegovy I get through Reserve Meds is real? Authenticity is the central value proposition. Reserve Meds sources only through Novo Nordisk's authorised US distribution channel, documents every node from US release through international air freight and Pakistani

customs to dispensing pharmacy receipt under DSCSA-traceable lots, and provides batch-level chain-of-custody attestation on every shipment. WHO and national regulators have issued repeated warnings since 2023 about counterfeit semaglutide pens in regional gray-market channels; the documented DSCSA route is the authentic alternative.

Will Adamjee, Jubilee, EFU, or State Life cover Wegovy? Coverage for named-patient imports of weight-management therapy is uncommon across Pakistani health plans, even when the patient meets the FDA label criteria. The cardiovascular-indication framing may strengthen coverage discussion for patients with established CVD, but the realistic default is cash-pay.

What is the safety profile? The label carries a boxed warning for thyroid C-cell tumors. Wegovy is contraindicated in patients with personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma or MEN 2. Most common adverse reactions are gastrointestinal: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain. Serious warnings cover acute pancreatitis, gallbladder disease, acute kidney injury, increased resting heart rate, suicidal behaviour or ideation, and (in patients with type 2 diabetes) diabetic retinopathy progression.

What happens if I stop Wegovy? Published follow-up data show substantial weight regain over 6 to 12 months after discontinuation. The clinical and economic implication is that Wegovy is intended as long-term maintenance therapy; the planning conversation with your physician should reflect that horizon.

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 Wegovy cases

Reserve Meds is a US-based concierge coordinator. We do not replace your endocrinologist, cardiologist, or pediatric specialist, do not replace DRAP, and do not replace the dispensing hospital pharmacy or in-country importer. For Wegovy specifically we orchestrate US-side sourcing through Novo Nordisk's authorised distribution channel, the regulatory documentation kit your physician needs (indication-specific letter template, 16-week 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. Recurring quarterly fills are the realistic cadence given the maintenance-therapy nature of the molecule. The brand-authenticity framing is the central differentiator against gray-market alternatives in regional channels.

Next step

If your treating physician has confirmed Wegovy 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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