NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION®

UNDERSTANDING YOUR IgAN SPECIALTY MEDICATION: A GUIDE TO NAVIGATING MEDICATION ACCESS

Your nephrologist (kidney doctor) may prescribe one or more medicines for your IgA nephropathy (IgAN). Many medicines recently approved to treat IgAN are considered "specialty medicines." These include:

- Fabhalta (iptacopan)
- Filspari (sparsentan)
- Tarpeyo (targeted-release budesonide)
- Trutakna (atacicept)
- Vanrafia (atrasentan)
- Voyxact (sibeprenlimab)

These medicines can be very helpful but getting them and paying for them can take extra steps. This guide explains a few words you may hear. It also gives you questions to ask various groups when trying to access your medicine(s).

Words that may be new to you

- **Specialty medication.** This is a high-cost medicine used for a complex or rare health problem. It often needs extra steps before you can get it. It may also need special handling or close check-ups.
- **Limited distribution pharmacy.** Many specialty medicines are not sold at your regular pharmacy. They can only be filled by certain pharmacies. This may mean your medicine needs to be mailed to your home instead of picked up in your town.
- **Prior authorization.** This is when your insurance must say "yes" before it will pay for a medicine. Your care team will need to send additional information about your IgAN to your insurance to show that you need the medicine. This can take time, so it may delay when you start.
- **Manufacturer hub.** This is a support program run by the company that makes the medicine. A hub can help you sign up, check your insurance, apply for help affording your medicine, and set up your pharmacy. Often, one person, such as a case manager, guides you through the steps. Your care team can connect you to the hub for your medicine.
- **Specialty medicine bridge program.** This program can give you medicine for free for a limited time. It helps you start or stay on your drug while you wait for insurance to say "yes" or while money help is being set up. It is meant to keep you from missing doses during the wait. Ask if there is a bridge program for your medicine.
- **Step therapy.** Some insurance plans want you to try a lower-cost drug first. Only if that drug does not work will they pay for the newer one.
- **Out-of-pocket cost.** This is the money you pay yourself for medicine. It can be a copay (a set dollar amount) or coinsurance (a percentage of the drug's price).
- **Patient assistance/copay help.** These are programs that can help lower what you pay. Some come from the company that makes the medicine. Others come from nonprofit groups.

Where to find help and questions to ask

More than one group helps you get and pay for a specialty medicine. Each group knows the answers to different questions. So the best person to ask may change from question to question. Here are some examples of groups you may encounter:

- **Your care team.** Your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or social worker at the clinic. Ask them about the drug, your lab tests, and the paperwork they send.
- **Your insurance plan.** The company that helps pay for your drug. Their number is on your insurance card. Ask them about coverage, cost, and appeals.
- **Your pharmacy.** The pharmacy that fills your specialty drug. Ask them about filling, shipping, and refills.
- **The manufacturer hub or patient assistance program.** The support program from the drug maker or a nonprofit group. Ask them about sign-up, financial help, and bridge programs.

The list below shows a good group to start with for each question. Some questions can be asked to multiple groups.

Also, you do not have to ask alone. Your care team can help you know who to call, and a nurse, pharmacist, or social worker can often call with you or on your behalf.

Getting the medicine

Which pharmacy will fill my IgAN medicine(s)? Can I use my usual pharmacy, or do I have to use a special one?

Which pharmacy will fill my IgAN medicine(s)? Can I use my usual pharmacy, or must I use a special one?

Will the medicine be mailed to me or do I go somewhere to pick it up?

Will my insurance need prior authorization before I can get it?

What information can I provide to help support the prior authorization process?

How will I know when the prior authorization is approved?

Is there a manufacturer hub for this drug, and can you help me sign up?

If there is a wait for the approval, is there a bridge program so I can start the medicine now?

Do I have to try another drug first (step therapy)?

What is the plan if my insurance says no? Can we appeal?

Is there a nurse, pharmacist, or social worker who can help me with the steps to access this medicine?

Paying for the medicine

About how much will this medicine cost each month?

Is there a copay card or coupon that can help lower my cost?

Are there any patient assistance programs I could apply for? If so, who can help me sign up?

Are there income rules I must meet to get help?

Will the money I pay for this medicine count toward my deductible or yearly limit?

Staying on the medicine

Who do I call if my refill is late or my medicine does not arrive?

What check-ups or lab tests do I need while taking this medicine?

What should I do if my cost goes up or my coverage changes?

Helpful tips

- Start early. Prior authorization and setup can take days or weeks.
- Keep a list of phone numbers for your clinic, pharmacy, and insurance.
- Write down names and dates each time you call. This helps if there is a delay.
- If you are enrolled in a manufacturer program or using a specialty pharmacy, remember to respond to their calls or texts. This is important for confirming consent, the medicine's affordability, and/or your shipping address. Not responding can significantly delay treatment.
- Do not stop taking your medicine on your own. Call your care team as soon as possible if cost or access is a problem.

Manufacturer Hub Information

MEDICATION	PROGRAM	CONTACT INFORMATION
Fabhalta (iptacopan)	Novartis Patient Support	**Phone:** 833.99FABHA (1-833-993-2242), Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET. **Web:** novartis.com/us-en/patients-and-caregivers/patient-assistance
Filspari (sparsentan)	Travere TotalCare	**Phone:** 833.FILSPARI (1-833-345-7727), Mon–Fri, 8am–9pm ET. **Web:** traveretotalcare.com/filspari
Tarpeyo (targeted-release budesonide)	Tarpeyo Touchpoints	**Phone:** 833.444.8277, Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET. **Web:** tarpeyo.com/savings-and-support
Trutakna (atacicept)	Trutakna Tru Support	**Phone:** 800.729.8591, Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET. **Web:** trutakna.com/savings-support Patients **must be enrolled by their healthcare provider;** they cannot self-enroll.
Vanrafia (atrasentan)	Novartis Patient Support	**Phone:** 844.4VANRAF (844.482.6723), Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET. **Web:** novartis.com/us-en/patients-and-caregivers/patient-assistance
Voyxact (sibeprenlimab)	Otsuka Patient Services	**Phone:** 833.VOYXACT (833.869.9228), Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET. **Web:** voyxact.com/savings-and-support

Appointment details

Nephrology office/clinic: _____

Date and time of appointment: _____

Location: _____

Phone: _____

For more information, contact the National Kidney Foundation

Toll-free help line: **855.NKF.CARES** or email: **nkfcares@kidney.org**

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