

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BIOSIMILAR MEDICATIONS



A biosimilar is a medication that is biologically similar to another medication (known as a reference product). The reference product and biosimilar have no clinical differences, so patients can expect the same safety and efficacy.



## Regulation of Biosimilars

The FDA ensures biosimilars are as safe and effective as the original by taking these measures:

- » Careful review of data, studies, and tests before approving a biosimilar
- » Monitoring safety and efficacy post-approval
- » Checking medication quality during production
- » Reviewing patient safety reports to the FDA

*A biosimilar and its original biologic have the same treatment risks and benefits*

## Similarities Between Biologic Medications and Biosimilars

- » Made with the same types of natural sources
- » Administered the same way
- » Same treatment benefits
- » Same potential side effects
- » Same strength and dosage



## Medical Conditions that Can be Treated

- » Chronic skin diseases (ex: psoriasis)
- » Chronic bowel diseases (ex: colon, Crohn's disease, and irritable bowel disorder)
- » Diabetes
- » Macular degeneration
- » Arthritis
- » Kidney conditions
- » Cancers (ex: breast, lung, and colon)

## Main Reason to Switch to Biosimilar Products

### MONEY SAVINGS

- » Generally less expensive because the FDA has labeled them as safe and effective as the original biologic
- » Due to the lower cost, a biosimilar may be covered by more insurance companies

**NOTE:** The lower cost is not a reflection of effectiveness or safety

## Questions About Your Medications?

Contact our care coordination team, part of your healthcare team.

602.406.7226 | [members@azcarenetwork.org](mailto:members@azcarenetwork.org)

Arizona Care Network

