

MYTH VS. FACT: 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 providers can expect the same safety and efficacy.

About Biosimilars

- » Safe, effective alternative versions of existing brand medications
- » Less expensive than biologic medications
- » Can lower costs and increase patient access to lifesaving medications

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)

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✘ MYTHS ✘

- » Biosimilars are less safe for patients than brand biologics.
- » Biosimilars aren't as effective as brand biologics.
- » Biosimilars won't save patients that much money.
- » Biosimilars that are interchangeable are better than normal biosimilars.

✔ FACTS ✔

- » Biosimilars undergo FDA testing, review and safety monitoring. The FDA requires the route of administration, dosage form and strength of the biosimilar and biologic medication to be the same.
- » Experts estimate biosimilars will be priced 10 to 35 percent less than brand-name drug competitors.¹ Patients could save as much as \$54 billion in the next decade.²
- » An interchangeable biosimilar has met additional FDA standards requirements. These standards do not mean that the product is better or a higher quality product than an FDA approved biosimilar.³