

Biosimilars: An Overview for Patients

What are biosimilars?

Biosimilars are medications approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). They are highly similar to an **original biologic medication**.

- **Biologics** are very complex medications. They are made from natural sources (such as proteins and living cells) and are usually more complicated to manufacture

The FDA evaluates biosimilars through a special and careful process to help make sure that biosimilars are as safe and work as well as the original medication.

Is a biosimilar a generic medication?



Biosimilars are not considered to be generics. Generics and their original medications are made from chemicals and the active ingredients are generally easier to copy. Because biosimilars and their original medications are made from living cells, it is not possible to make exact copies. Instead, biosimilars are **highly similar** versions of their original medication.

Did you know...?

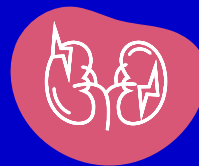
Biologics and their biosimilars are used in the treatment of many illnesses such as:



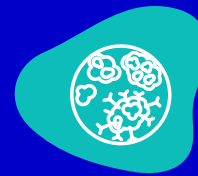
Chronic skin and bowel diseases



Arthritis



Kidney conditions



Cancer

Biosimilars are highly similar to their original medication.

To gain FDA approval, when compared with their original medication, biosimilars must:



- ▶ Be taken and dosed the same way



- ▶ Be made with the same kinds of natural or living sources



- ▶ Have the same safety and effectiveness

Biosimilars may help improve patient access to important treatments.



Biosimilars may have the potential to **lower out-of-pocket costs** for some patients with cost-sharing requirements, such as co-insurance and co-payments.

Biosimilars may also provide **cost savings** to the healthcare system overall.

Check with your healthcare provider or insurance company about your coverage details.



Talk with your doctor if you have questions about biosimilars.

For more information, please visit [fda.gov/drugs/biosimilars/basics-patients](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/biosimilars/basics-patients).