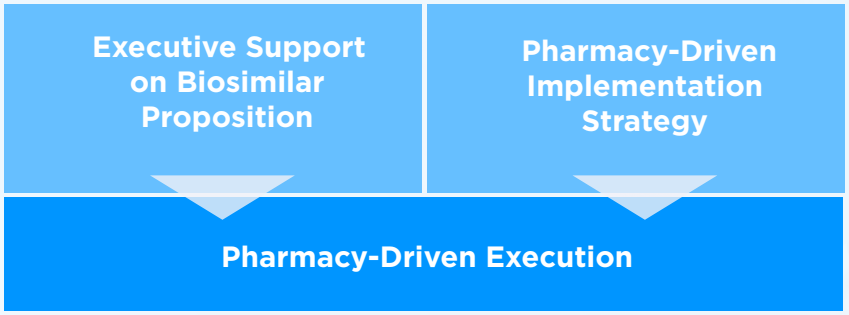
Operationalizing Biosimilars Best Practices: 3 Practical Steps Toward Implementation

Biosimilars have layered additional complexities into the traditional evaluation process used by Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committees in considering a new product for formulary inclusion. To ensure efficient implementation, a thoughtful assessment of the strategies and tactics related to an institution's operational considerations is required.[1,2]

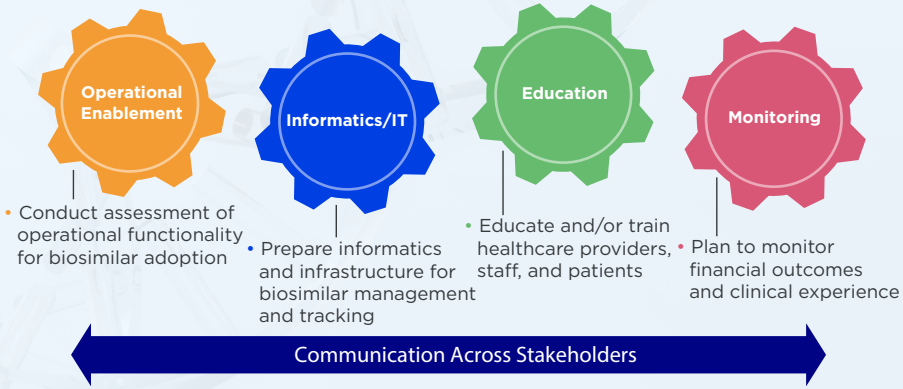
Strategic Considerations for P&T Evaluation[1-3]

Multidisciplinary Collaboration Will Be Essential to Execute the P&T Implementation Strategy[1-5]



Prescribing HCPs • Nursing • Billing/Reimbursement
Pharmacy • Informatics/IT • Inventory • ADC
CFO • Director of Pharmacy • Procurement
Finance • Patient Educators • Social Workers
Registration & Scheduling

4 Critical Elements That May Be Included in a Biosimilar Implementation Strategy[2-4,6-9]



The considerations found on the next page may help you develop the implementation strategy that will be most effective at your institution.

Example Considerations for Biosimilar Implementation Strategy

1 ▸ PREPARATION

Operational Enablement

- Integrate benefits verification process with electronic health record (EHR) systems to facilitate a quick order process[7]
- Set up biosimilar prior authorizations in the EHR to ensure coverage[7]
- Develop a patient transition plan for how biosimilar transitions will be sequenced (e.g., all at once, phased in by clinic or therapeutic area, existing vs treatment-naive patients)[1,4]
- Identify where the product will be stored and how much should be stocked[2]
- Evaluate what inventory management system modifications need to be made (including automated dispensing devices and software) to integrate the biosimilar and enable accurate identification[2,4]

2 ▸ IMPLEMENTATION

Informatics/IT

- Identify what modifications need to be made to existing order sets and protocols to include biosimilar products[4]
- Plan for converting patient orders (e.g., new vs established patients, single order vs treatment plan, route for co-signature)[1,2,4-6]
- Determine which EHR functionality/interface can be leveraged to support the organization's biosimilar conversion goals[2,4]

Education

- Identify the most critical stakeholders to target for biosimilar education[7,9]
- Determine what education stakeholders will need to prepare for biosimilar adoption[7,9]
- Select who will be responsible for patient education[5,8]
- Identify which patient education materials will be needed to support biosimilar use[5,8]

3 ▸ MONITORING

Monitoring

- Determine how the institution will ensure that biosimilar protocol is followed[2,7]
- Identify how financial and drug use evaluation outcomes will be monitored in order to determine if value of the biosimilar was achieved[2,7]

Clear communication of the biosimilar initiative and implementation strategy should be maintained across stakeholders throughout the medication management continuum.[3]

Pfizer Provides Resources to Help With Seamless Biosimilar Implementation for Your Practice, Hospital, or Health System

- EHR tip sheets to help identify appropriate patients
- Patient education
- EHR biosimilar implementation support tools
- Medical-to-medical support when requested
- Emerging potential best practices for implementation and considerations for P&T
- PfizerBiosimilars.com downloadable resources and informational videos

For more information, please speak with your Pfizer representative and visit PfizerBiosimilars.com

References: 1. Soefje S. Considerations for adding biosimilars to formulary. *Pharmacy Purchasing & Products*. 2019;16(4):1-13. https://www.pppmag.com/article/2368. Accessed June 28, 2022. **2.** Griffith N, McBride A, Stevenson JG, Green L. Formulary selection criteria for biosimilars: considerations for US health-system pharmacists. *Hosp Pharm.* 2014;49(9):813-825. **3.** Ciccarello C, Leber MB, Leonard MC, et al. ASHP guidelines on the pharmacy and therapeutics committee and the formulary system. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2021;78(10):907-918. **4.** Ventola CL. Evaluation of biosimilars for formulary inclusion: factors for consideration by P&T committees. *P T.* 2015;40(10):680-689. **5.** Lucio SD, Stevenson JG, Hoffman JM. Biosimilars: Implications for health-system pharmacists. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2013;70(22):2004-2017. **6.** Rumore MM, Vogenberg FR. Biosimilars: still not quite ready for prime time. *P T.* 2016;41(6):366-375. **7.** AMCP Partnership Forum: biosimilars—ready, set, launch. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm.* 2016;22(4):434-440. **8.** Edwards CJ, Hercogová J, Albrand H, Amiot A. Switching to biosimilars: current perspectives in immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2019;19(10):1001-1014. **9.** Oskouei ST. Following the biosimilar breadcrumbs: when health systems and manufacturers approach forks in the road. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm.* 2017;23(12):1245-1248.

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