

Suffix vs No Suffix: Naming Biologics and Biosimilars



What's a Biosimilar?

Biosimilars are FDA-approved, biologic medicines that help patients manage or treat debilitating diseases.

Biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars are competitive, effective alternatives to brand-name biologics ("reference products").

Biologic Naming 101

All biologic drugs, including biosimilars, have an international nonproprietary name (INN). Biosimilars share the same INN with a reference product, with the addition of a random, four-letter suffix.

The FDA ASSIGNS 4-LETTER SUFFIXES TO: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Newly approved biosimilars▶ Interchangeable biosimilars▶ Interchangeable biologics that were first approved as biosimilars
DOES NOT ASSIGN A 4-LETTER SUFFIX TO: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Previously approved brand-name biologics

DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN NAMING, BIOSIMILARS AND INTERCHANGEABLE BIOSIMILARS ARE:



Effective & Safe



Competitively Priced



Provide Savings & Increased Access

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STAKEHOLDERS UNDERSTAND BIOLOGIC NAMING TO:



Alleviate confusion for patients and providers



Promote confidence in more cost-effective medicines



Ensure understanding about equally safe and effective products

Learn more about biologic naming: <https://www.biosimilarscouncil.org/advocacy/>

ABOUT THE BIOSIMILARS COUNCIL

Biosimilars Council, a division of the Association for Accessible Medicines (AAM), works to ensure a positive environment for patient access to biosimilar medicines.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT

[biosimilarscouncil.org](https://www.biosimilarscouncil.org)



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