Myths vs. Facts About Biosimilars
For Patients

WHAT ARE BIOSIMILARS?

A biosimilar is a medicine that is highly similar to a brand biologic medicine. There are 20+ FDA-approved biosimilars[1] helping patients with common but difficult-to-treat diseases including cancer, arthritis, and other inflammatory diseases. 60+ more biosimilars are in development.[2,3]

Biosimilars are safe, effective alternative versions of existing brand biologic medicines (known as "reference products") with scientifically comparable quality, safety and effectiveness. Biologic medicines are expensive for patients, taxpayers and insurers. Biosimilars provide important competition, which can help lower costs and increase patient access to lifesaving medications.

MYTHS	FACTS
"Biosimilars are less safe for patients than brand biologics."	Biosimilars undergo **rigorous FDA testing, review and safety monitoring**. The biosimilars development process is complex and companies that manufacture biosimilars are committed to providing safe, effective products to patients.
"Biosimilars aren't as effective as brand biologics."	**10+ years** Patients in Europe have used biosimilars for 10+ years, resulting in more than 700 million days of safe, effective use.[4]
"Biosimilars won't save patients that much money."	Experts estimate that biosimilars will be priced 10 to 35 percent less than their brand-name drug competitors.[5] This means patients could save as much as **$54 billion** in the next decade.[6]
"Biosimilars won't help all patients."	By increasing competition, biosimilars will **increase patient access for some of the most vulnerable affected patient groups,** including senior citizens and those with multiple chronic diseases.

References

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5. Biosimilar Drugs May Reduce U.S. Health Spending by $54 Billion. Available at: https://bit.ly/2EsWDOr Accessed August 5, 2019.
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