

**aam**

Association for Accessible Medicines

**Your Generics & Biosimilars Industry**

# Part D Biosimilar Tiering Analysis

December 2023

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# Avalere Conducted an Analysis of Biosimilar Coverage, Tiering, and Management in Part D

**Overview** / Avalere conducted an analysis to understand the distribution of biosimilars relative to their corresponding reference products on Medicare Part D formulary tiers for PY 2024.

**Approach** / Avalere utilized its PlanScape® customized formulary analysis to synthesize Medicare PY 2024 formulary PUFs to assess coverage and management of drugs covered under Part D, including MA-PDs. Avalere's analysis included the following therapeutic areas:



**Insulin**  
Lantus



**Immunological Agents**  
Actemra\*, Humira

For each product and the market basket as a group, Avalere examined the PY 2024 formularies to determine:

- 1 Percent of the time the drug is covered
- 2 Percent of the time drugs are listed on each formulary tier
- 3 Percent of the time drugs require utilization management by type

\*Note: While there is an FDA approved Actemra biosimilar, it did not appear on any assessed plan formularies.  
MA-PD: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan; PUF: Public Use File; PY: Plan Year

# Methodology

Avalere assessed the insulin and immunological agents drug classes covered under Part D using PlanScape® and the CMS Part D PUFs from October 2023 that correspond to Plan Year 2024. The products included in each drug class were determined using Medi-Span Drug Reference files and were reviewed by Avalere's clinical staff.

Avalere included plans available in the 50 states and Washington DC. Plans were included even if they did not cover any of the drugs included in the analysis. Parent organizations were identified using Contract ID from the plan enrollment files.

Avalere analyzed coverage, tiering, and utilization management. All results are reported as percentage of plans covering drugs in each category at the aggregate drug class level and the drug-specific level for branded and biosimilar insulin lispro, adalimumab, epoetin alfa, pegfilgrastim, and filgrastim.

Results are presented across all plans, by plan type (MA-PD or PDP), and for the 5 largest Part D parent organizations in 2023 (United Healthcare, Humana, CVS, Centene, and Cigna).

# Avalere Analyzed 5500+ Part D Plan Formularies to Inform Biosimilar Tiering Assessment

Analyzed Plans	
Plan Type	Number of Plans
All	5,580
MA-PD	4,871
PDP	709
United	893
Humana	758
CVS	793
Centene	475
Cigna	339

# Avalere Analyzed Coverage, Tiering, and UM of Brand and Biosimilar Drugs Across the 2 Drug Classes

	Analyzed Drugs	
	 Insulin Products	 Immunological Agents
Non-Reference Brand	21	23
Branded Reference	1	1
Unbranded Reference	4	0
Biosimilars	2	8
Unbranded Biosimilars	1	3

TA: Therapeutic Area; UM: Utilization Management

# Key Findings



**Insulin** reference products generally have higher coverage, preferred tiering, and less-restrictive UM compared to biosimilars. While 80% of plans cover Lantus (insulin glargine), less than 10% of plans cover the biosimilar products. There were no notable differences between prefilled pen and non-pen packaging for coverage, tiering, or UM.



**Immunological agent** biosimilars are substantially less likely to be covered than their reference products. When covered, immunological agent biosimilars were placed on specialty tiers.



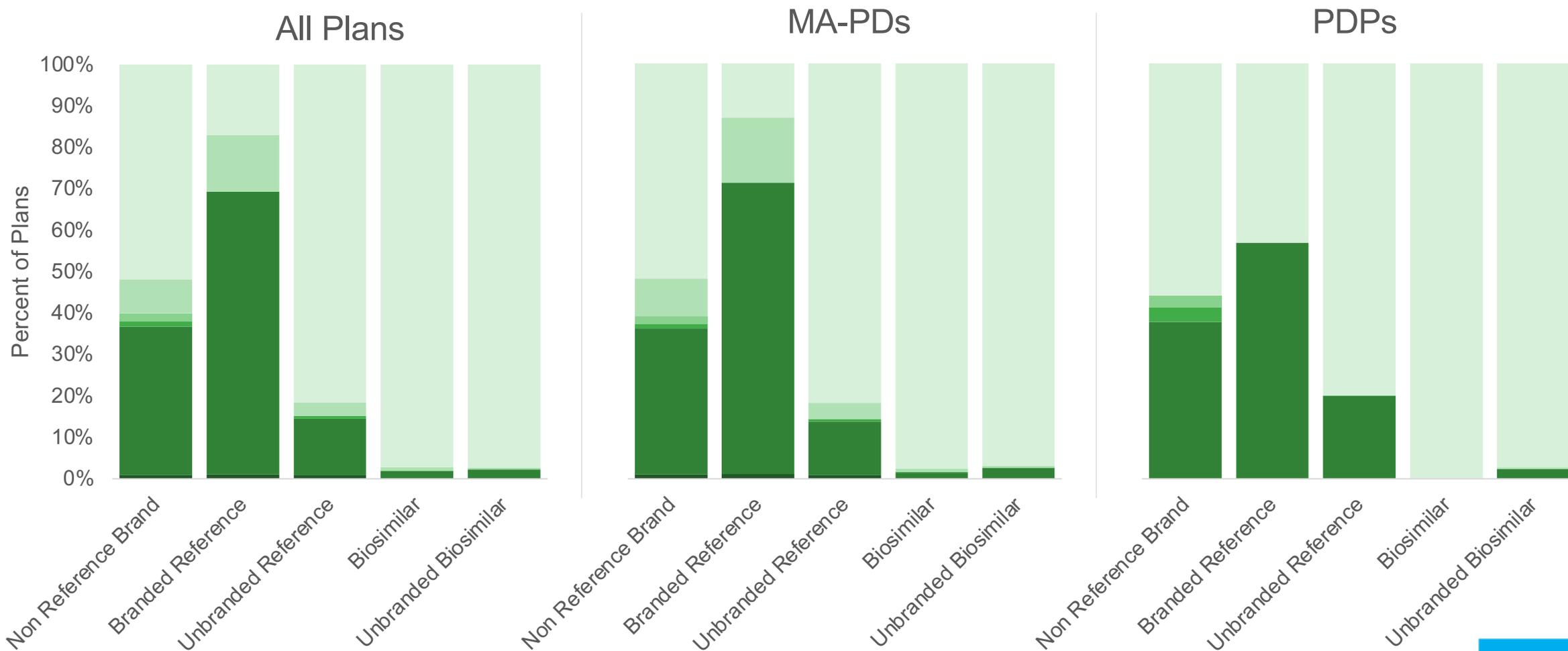
Across all Humira biosimilars, Cyltezo was covered by the most plans, although coverage of Humira biosimilars was low.



# Therapeutic Area Findings: Insulin

# Reference Products Are More Likely to Be Covered Than Biosimilar Products

## Tiering of Insulin Products by Product Type

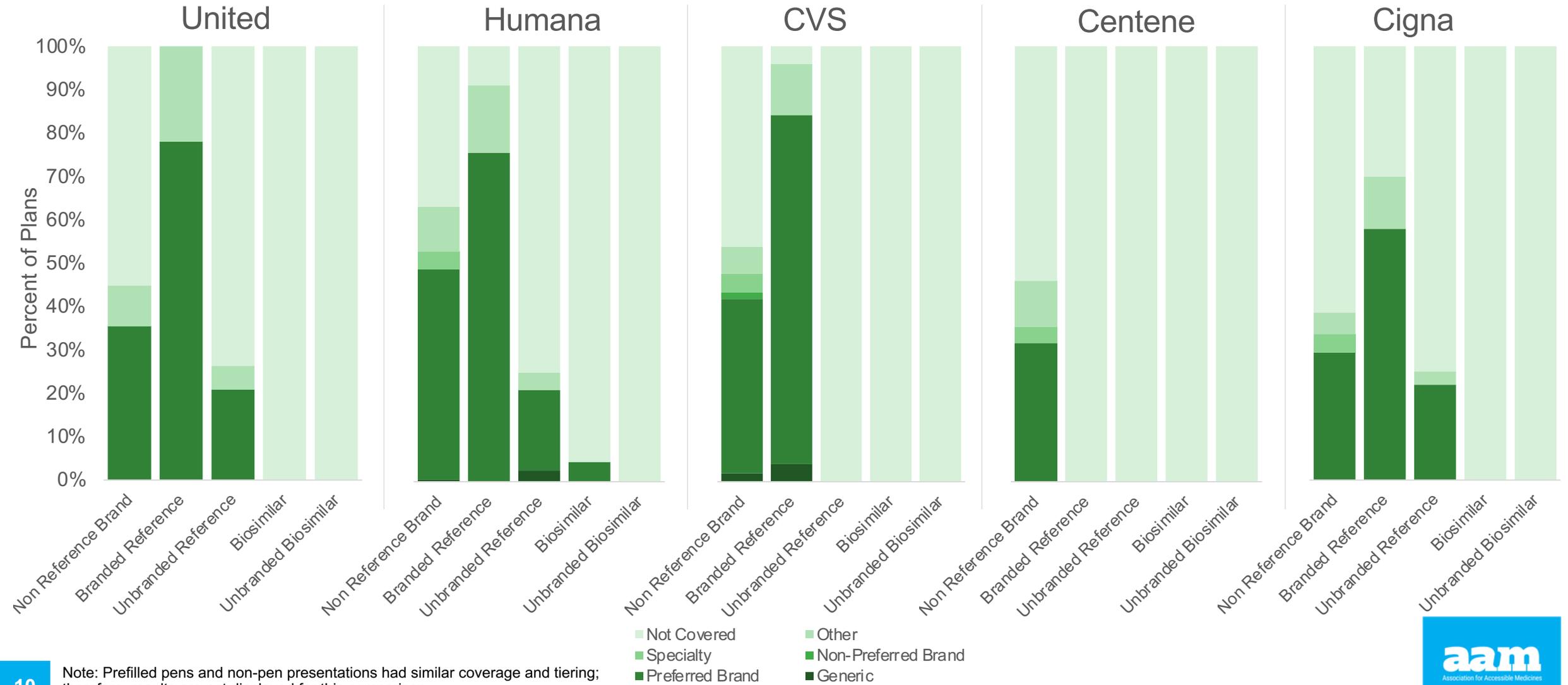


Note: Prefilled pens and non-pen presentations had similar coverage and tiering; therefore, results are not displayed for this comparison.  
MA-PD: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan; PDP: Prescription Drug Plan

Not Covered  
Specialty  
Preferred Brand  
Other  
Non-Preferred Brand  
Generic

# Humana is the Only Top 5 Plan Sponsor to Cover Biosimilar Insulins

Coverage of Insulin Products For Top 5 Plans by Product Type

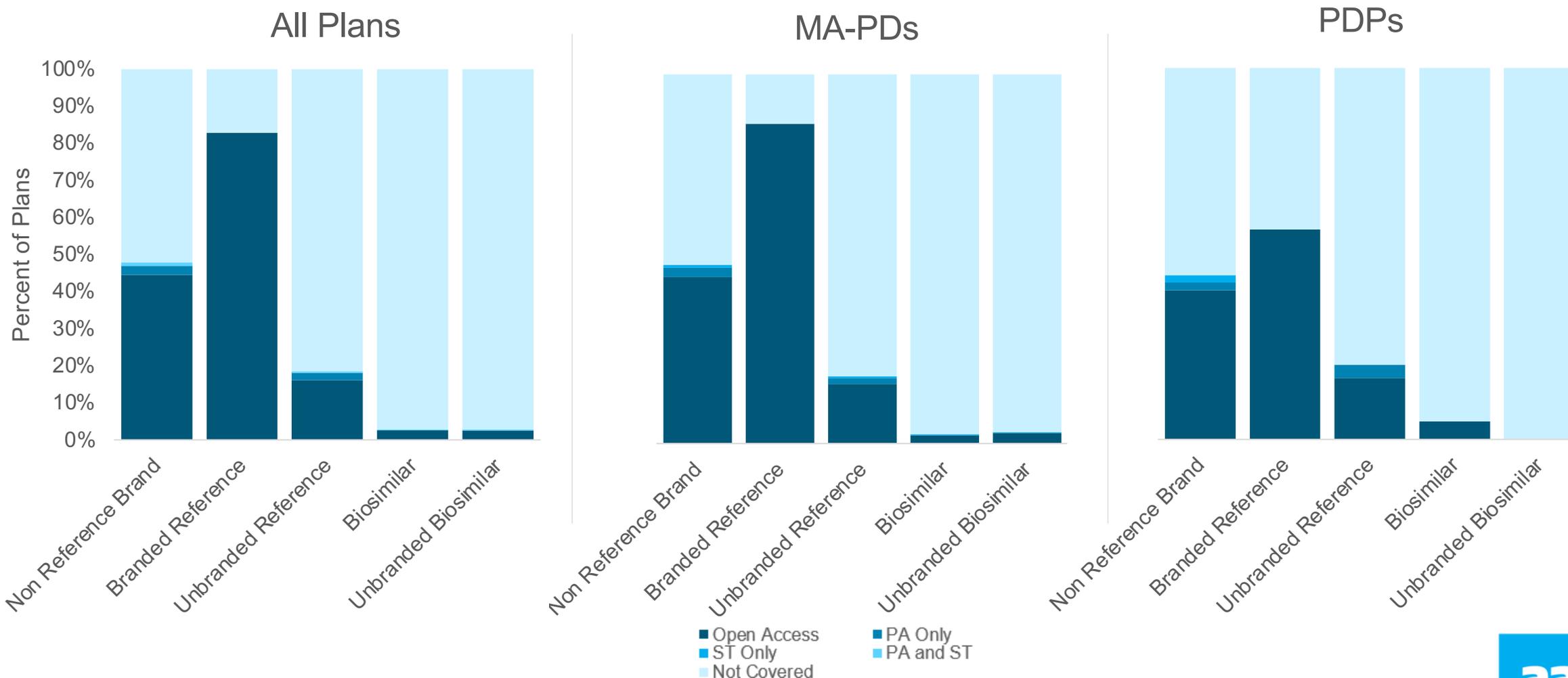


Note: Prefilled pens and non-pen presentations had similar coverage and tiering; therefore, results are not displayed for this comparison.



# When Plans Cover Insulin Reference Brands and Biosimilars, Most Provide Open Access

## UM of Insulin Products by Product Type



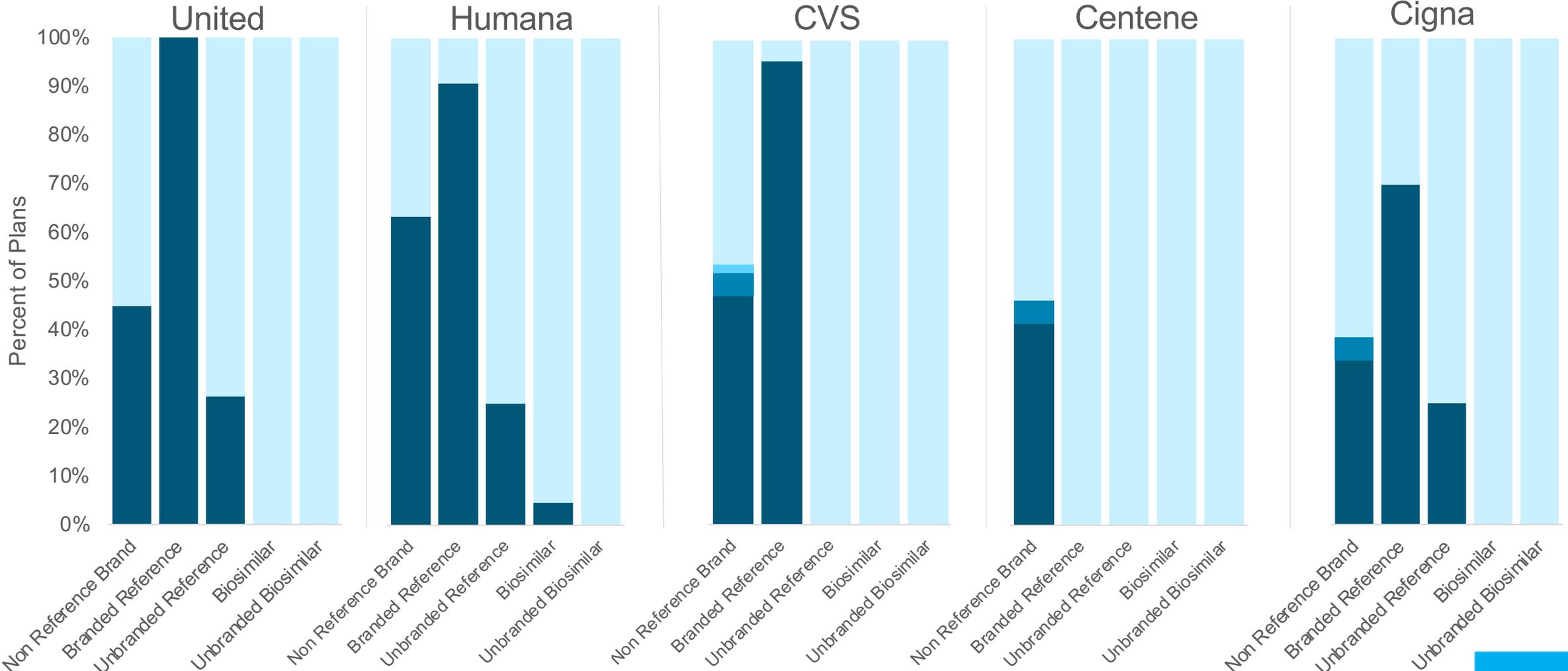
Note: Prefilled pens and non-pen presentations had UM; therefore, results are not displayed for this comparison.

MA-PD: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan; PA: Prior Authorization; PDP: Prescription Drug Plan; ST: Step Therapy; UM: Utilization Management



# The Top 5 Plan Sponsors Most Often Cover Insulin Reference Products Without UM

## UM of Insulin Products For Top 5 Plans by Product Type



Note: Prefilled pens and non-pen presentations had similar UM; therefore, results are not displayed for this comparison.  
PA: Prior Authorization; ST: Step Therapy; UM: Utilization Management

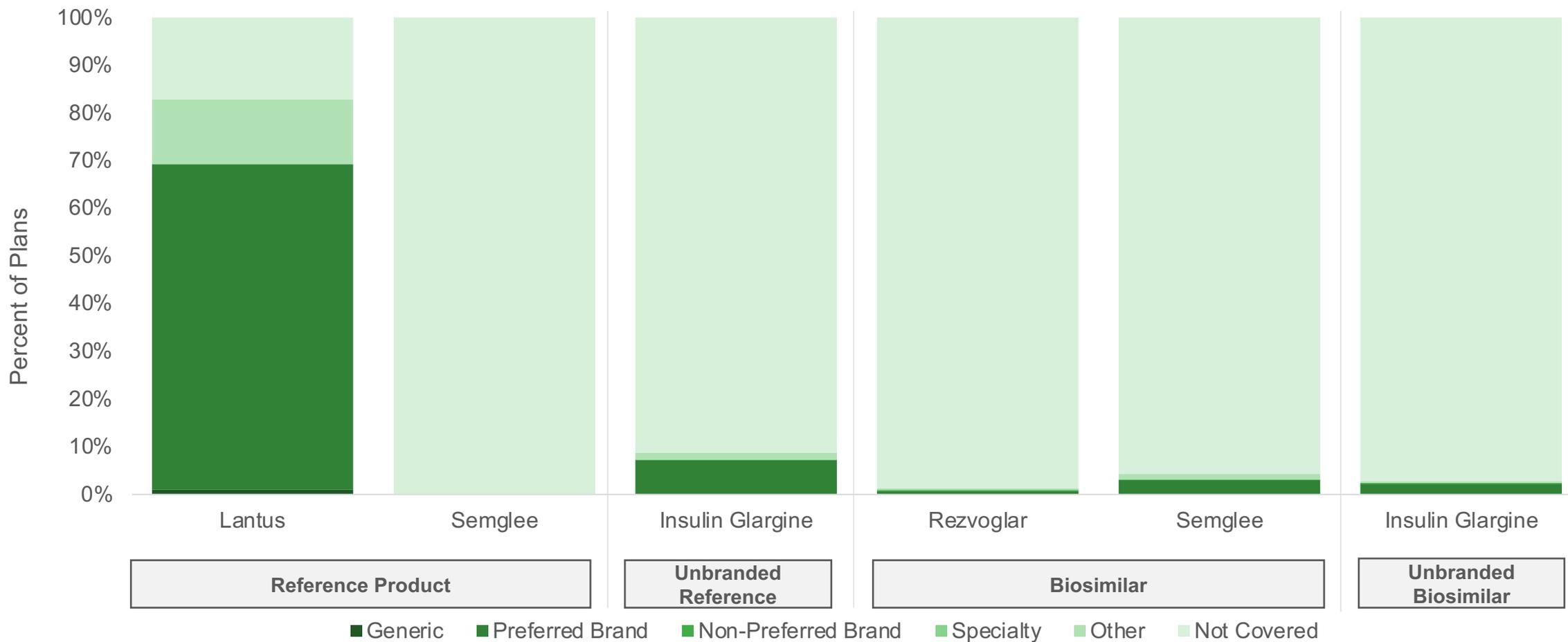
- Open Access
- ST Only
- PA Only
- PA and ST



# Product Specific Findings: Insulin

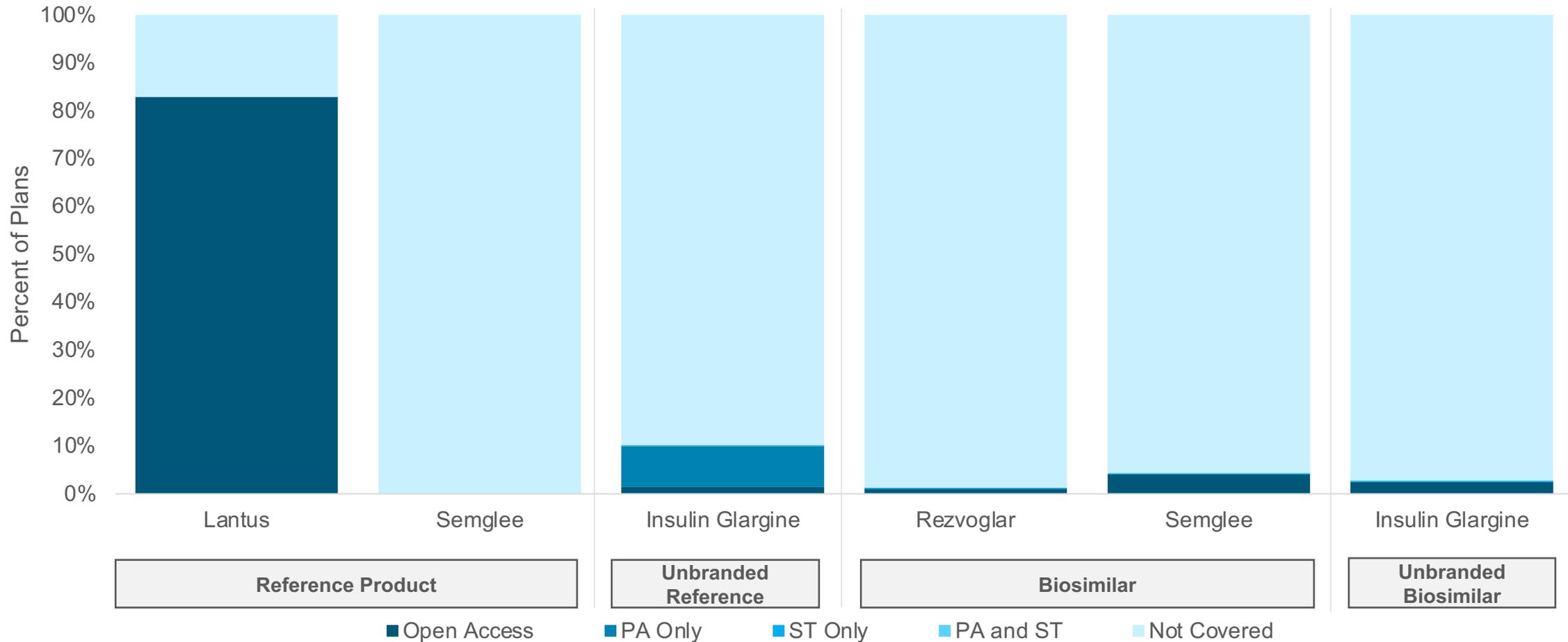
# Most Plans Place Reference Brand Lantus on the Preferred Brand Tier

## Insulin Glargine (Lantus) Tiering For All Plans by Product Type



# Most Plans Provide Open Access to Reference Brand Lantus

## Insulin Glargine (Lantus) UM For All Plans by Product Type



Note: Pens and non-pens had similar UM. Therefore, results are not displayed for this comparison.  
PA: Prior Authorization; ST: Step Therapy; UM: Utilization Management



# Therapeutic Area Findings: Immunological Agents

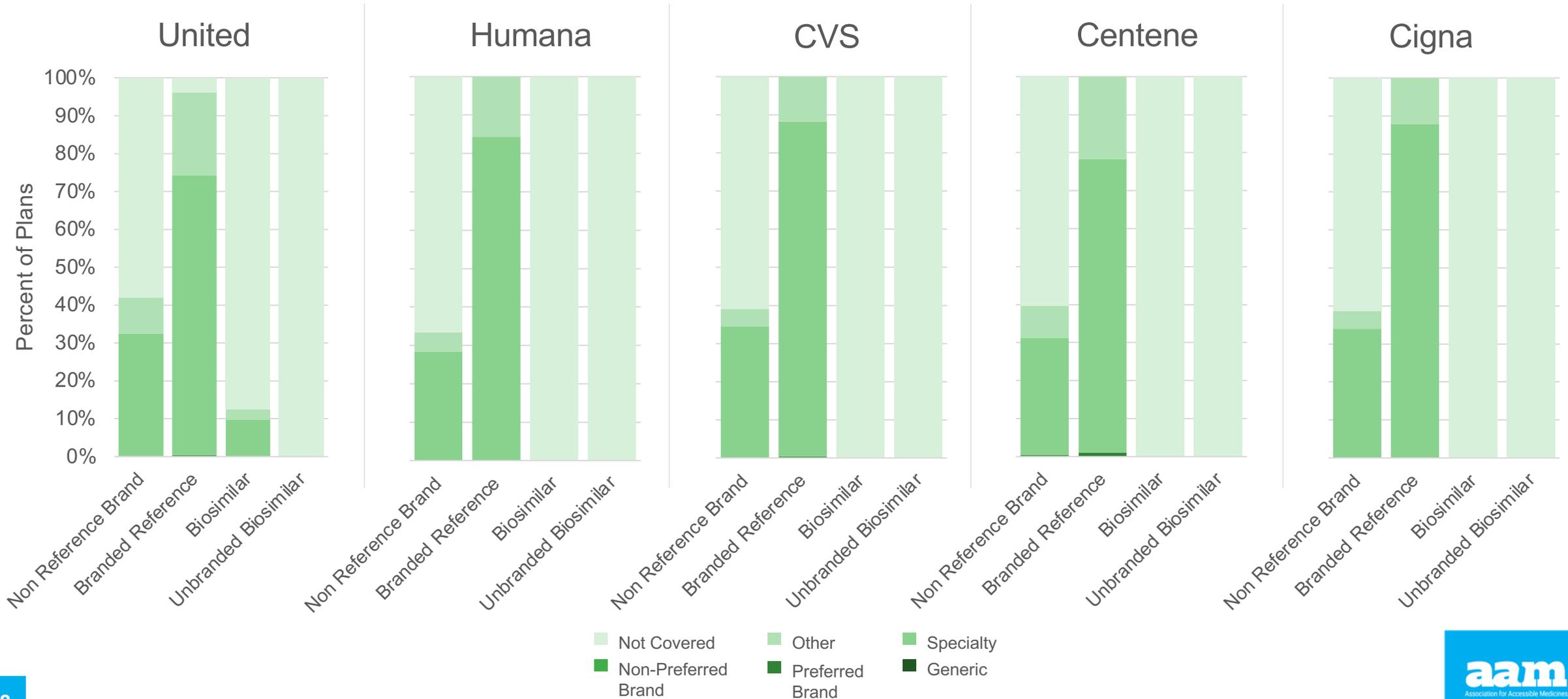
# Plans Are Likely to Cover Branded Reference Products and Place Them on Specialty Tiers

## Tiering of Immunological Agents by Product Type



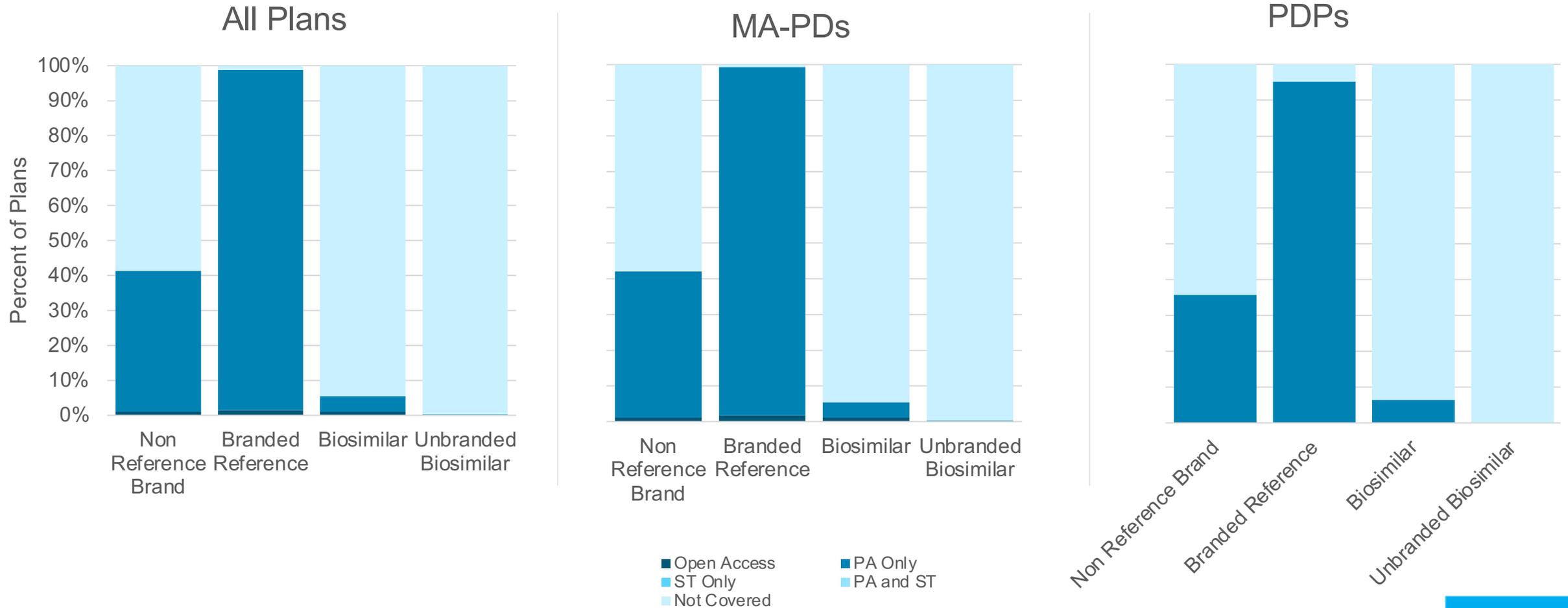
# Across All 5 Plan Sponsors, Most Humira Biosimilars Were Not Covered

Tiering of Immunological Agents Among Top 5 Plan Sponsors by Product Type



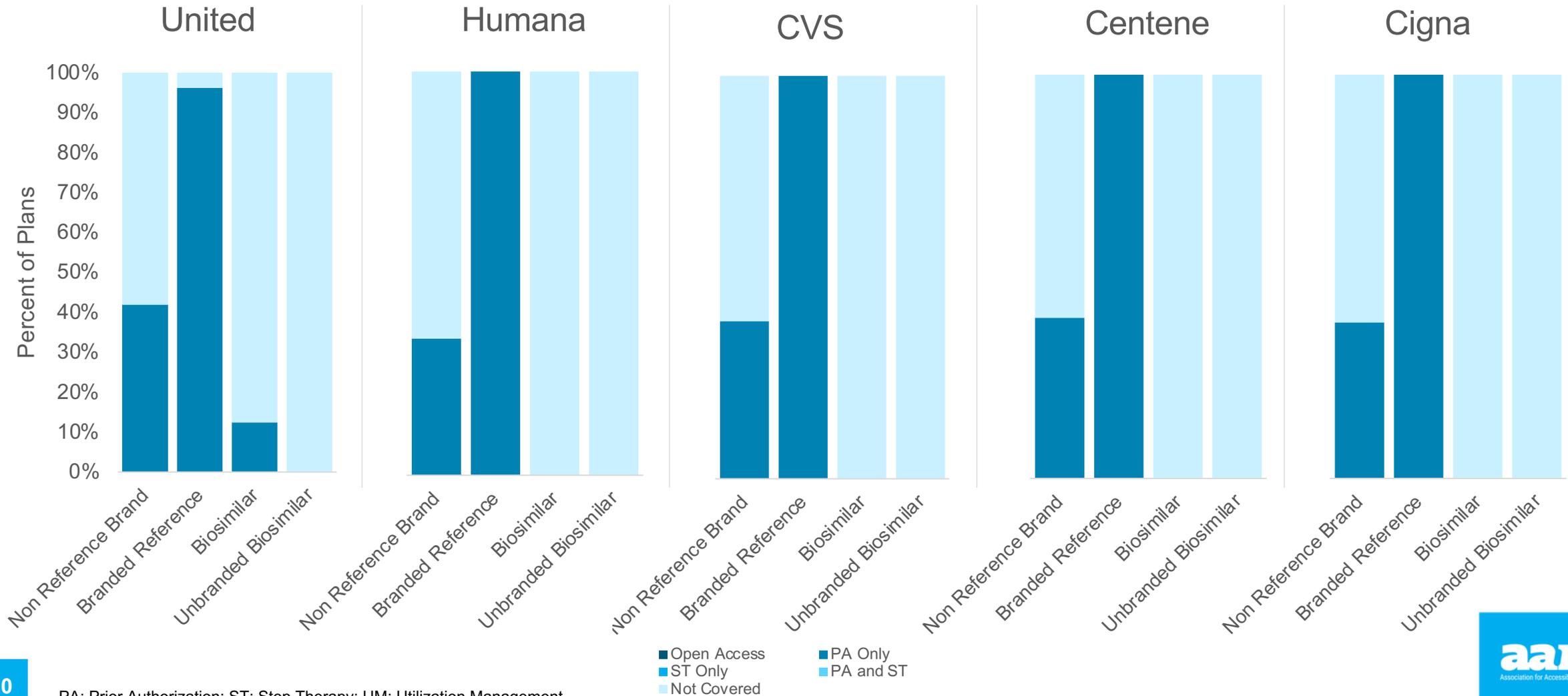
# PA Is the Most Commonly Used UM for Covered Immunological Agents and Their Biosimilars

## Management of Immunological Agents by Product Type



# United Is the Only Top 5 Plan Sponsor to Cover Immunological Agent Biosimilars; Covered with PA

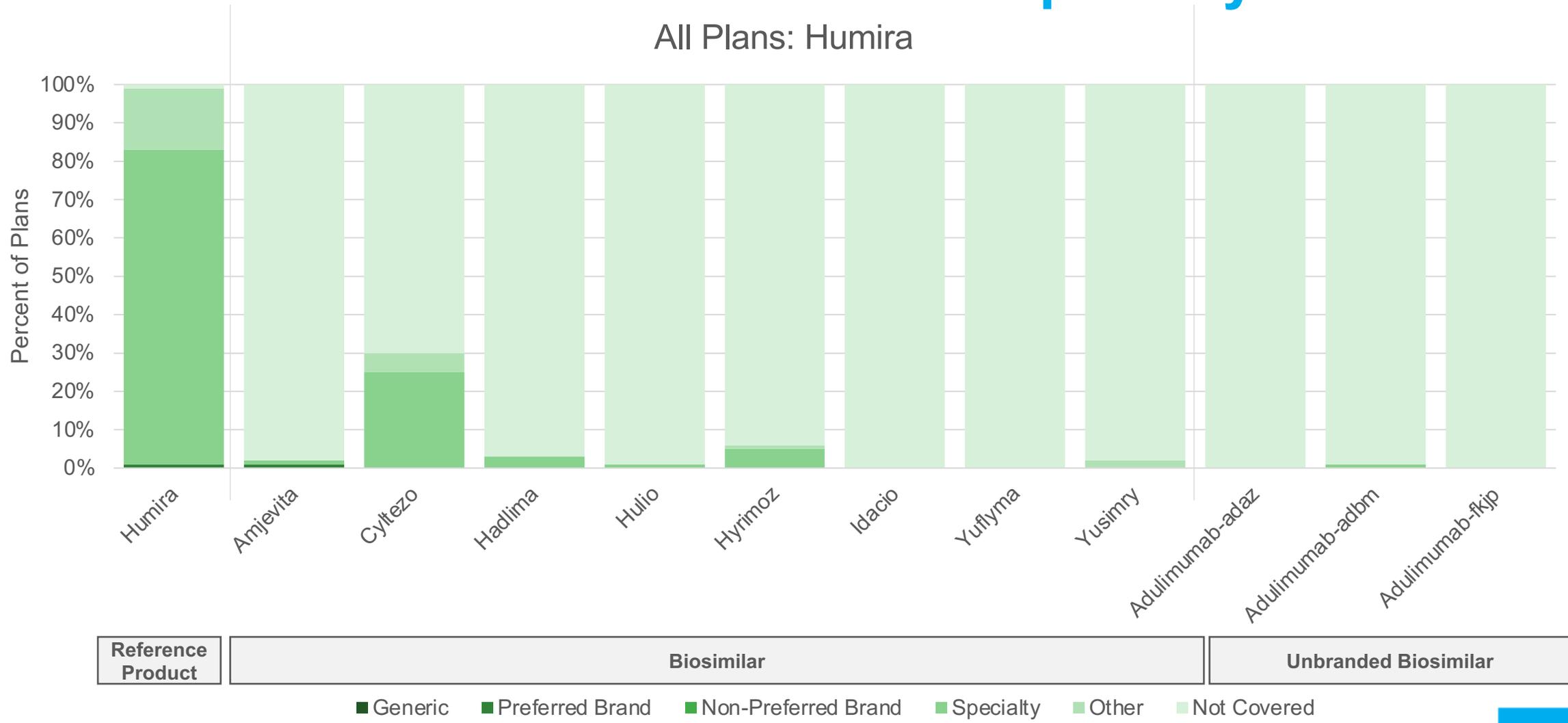
Management of Immunological Agents Among Top 5 Plan Sponsors by Product Type



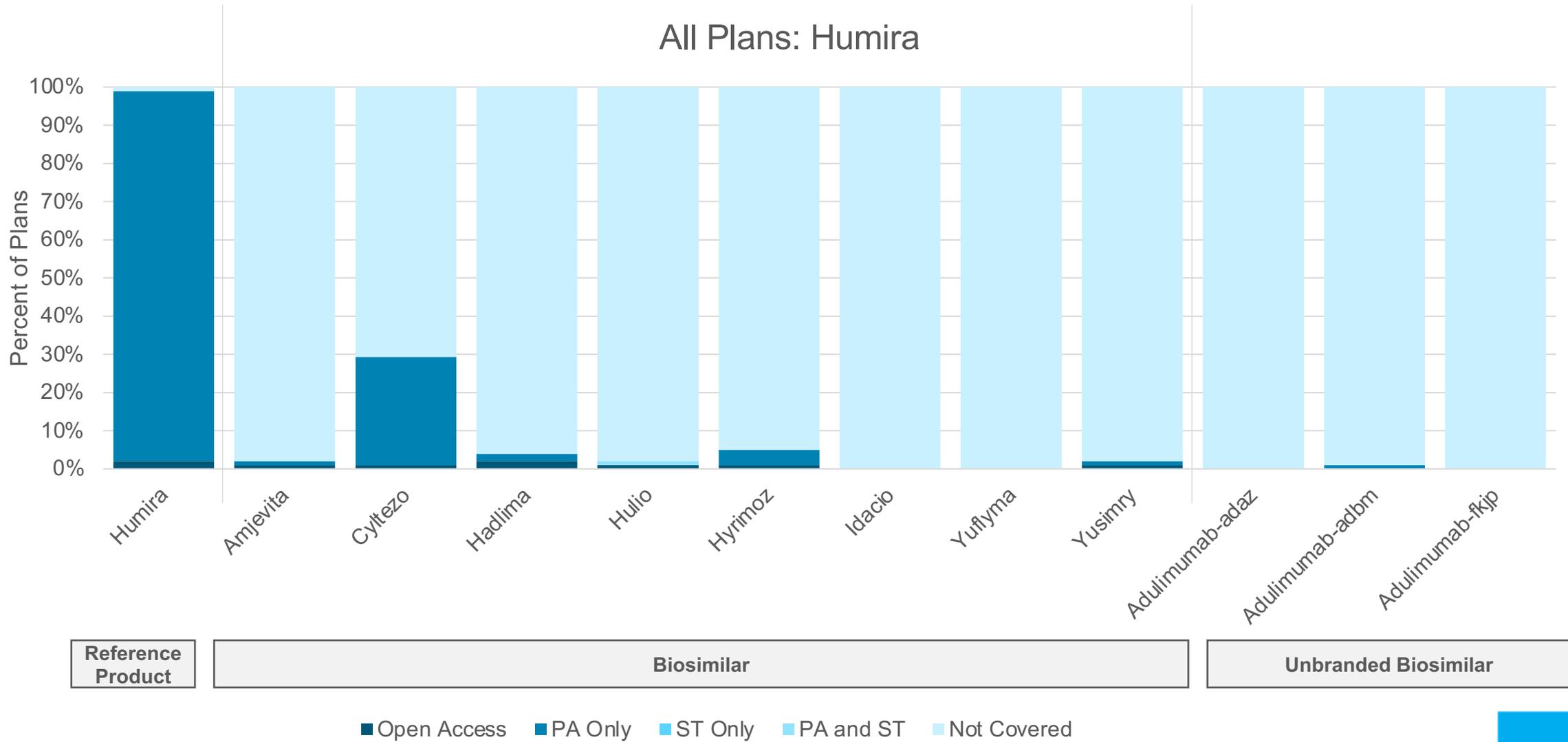


# Product Specific Findings: Immunological Agents

# While Most Biosimilars Were Not Covered, Covered Products Were Placed on Specialty Tiers



# Across All Plans, Humira Biosimilars Were Not Covered; Humira Requires Prior Authorization



Reference Product

Biosimilar

Unbranded Biosimilar