

## BIOSIMILAR MEDICATIONS

Your prescribing practices can influence the patient experience

### What is a biosimilar medication?

A Biosimilar is a biologic medication that has been evaluated by the FDA and approved after it has been proven to be almost identical to the original reference biologic. There are no substantive clinical differences in terms of safety and efficacy and only minor differences are allowed in the inactive components.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Effective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No clinical difference compared to the reference biologic</li> <li>➤ Identical in dosage form and route of administration</li> </ul>
<b>Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Same use indications</li> <li>➤ Manufactured under the same FDA standards</li> </ul>
<b>Positive Patient Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Same health outcomes</li> <li>➤ Average cost of a <i>preferred</i> biosimilar may be <b>15-20% less than a non-preferred product</b></li> </ul>

### How you can help increase the use of preferred biosimilar

- Prescribe the *preferred* biosimilar products for your patients – see list below. For certain biosimilar medications, we require use of the preferred products.
- Help patients understand the effectiveness, safety, and potential savings of preferred biosimilars. The FDA website offers useful biosimilar information for [patients](#) and [consumers](#).
- Stay up to date on new biosimilars and clinical information shared by the [FDA](#).

#### Advantages of using biosimilars

- Better reimbursement for providers
- Lower cost share for members

### Preferred biosimilar status

We require the use of preferred biosimilar(s). The list below, from our [Biosimilar Therapy criteria](#), shows the preferred products that must be prescribed before a non-preferred option will be covered.

Medication	Product	Code	Preferred Status
<b>Bevacizumab</b>	Zirabev (biosimilar)	Q5118	Preferred
	Avastin (brand reference)	J9035	Preferred
	Alymsys (biosimilar)	Q5126	Non-preferred
	Mvasi (biosimilar)	Q5107	Non-preferred
	Vegzelma (biosimilar)	J3590	Non-preferred

<sup>1</sup> FDA website: [Biosimilar and interchangeable Biologics: More Treatment Choices](#)

<b>Filgrastim</b>	Nivestym (biosimilar)	Q5110	Preferred
	Neupogen (brand reference)	J1442	Preferred
	Granix (biosimilar)	J1447	Non-preferred
	Releuko (biosimilar)	Q5125	Non-preferred
	Zarxio (biosimilar)	Q5101	Non-preferred
<b>Infliximab</b>	Avsola (biosimilar)	Q5121	Preferred
	Infliximab (biosimilar)	J1745	Preferred
	Renflexis (biosimilar)	Q5104	Preferred
	Remicade (brand reference)	J1745	Preferred
	Inflectra (biosimilar)	Q5103	Non-preferred
<b>Pegfilgrastim</b>	Fulphilia (biosimilar)	Q5108	Preferred
	Neulasta/Neulasta Onpro (brand reference)	J2506	Preferred
	Fynetra (biosimilar)	J3590	Non-preferred
	Nyvepria (biosimilar)	Q5122	Non-preferred
	Stimufend (biosimilar)	J3590	Non-preferred
	Udenyca (biosimilar)	Q5111	Non-preferred
	Ziextenzo (biosimilar)	Q5120	Non-preferred
<b>Rituximab</b>	Ruxience (biosimilar)	Q5119	Preferred
	Rituxan (brand reference)	J9312	Preferred
	Riabni (biosimilar)	Q5123	Non-preferred
	Truxima (biosimilar)	Q5115	Non-preferred
<b>Trastuzumab</b>	Kanjinti (biosimilar)	Q5117	Preferred
	Ogivri (biosimilar)	Q5114	Preferred
	Herceptin (brand reference)	J9355	Preferred
	Herzuma (biosimilar)	Q5113	Non-preferred
	Ontruzant (biosimilar)	Q5112	Non-preferred
	Trazimera (biosimilar)	Q5116	Non-preferred

Note: The brand reference is the biologic that was first to market and the product to which biosimilars are compared.