

## BIOSIMILAR MEDICATIONS

Your prescribing practices can influence the patient experience

### What is a biosimilar medication?

A biosimilar is a biologic medication that the FDA has evaluated and approved after determining that:

1. The biosimilar has been proven to be almost identical to the original reference biologic.
2. There are no substantive clinical differences in terms of safety and efficacy.
3. There are only minor differences in the inactive components.<sup>1</sup>

The use of preferred biosimilars can lower cost share for members by an average of 15%-20%.

Effective	<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>
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Same use indications</li> <li>➤ Manufactured under the same FDA standards</li> </ul>
Positive Patient Experience	<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 biosimilars

- 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](#).

### 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
Bevacizumab	Zirabev™ (biosimilar)	Q5118	Preferred
	Avastin® (brand reference)	J9035	Preferred
	Alymsys® (biosimilar)	Q5126	Non-preferred
	Mvasi® (biosimilar)	Q5107	Non-preferred
	Vegzelma® (biosimilar)	J3590	Non-preferred
Filgrastim	Nivestym® (biosimilar)	Q5110	Preferred
	Neupogen® (brand reference)	J1442	Preferred

<sup>1</sup> Source: [FDA, "Biosimilar and Interchangeable Biologics: More Treatment Choices"](#)

	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>	Fulphila® (biosimilar)	Q5108	Preferred
	Neulasta®/Neulasta® Onpro® (brand reference)	J2506	Preferred
	Fylnetra® (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.

<sup>1</sup>Source: [FDA, “Biosimilar and Interchangeable Biologics: More Treatment Choices”](#)

Zirabev, Nivestym, Inflectra, Nyvepria, Ruxience, and Trazimera are registered trademarks of Pfizer Inc.

Avastin and Herceptin are registered trademarks of Genentech USA, Inc.

Alymys, Releuko, and Fylnetra are registered trademarks of Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC.

Mvasi, Neupogen, Avsola, Neulasta, and Riabni are registered trademarks, and Onpro® is a trademark, of Amgen, Inc. Kanjinti is a trademark owned or licensed by Amgen, Inc., its subsidiaries, or affiliates.

Vegzelma is a registered trademark of Celltrion Healthcare Co., Ltd. Truxima and Herzuma are registered trademarks of Celltrion Inc., used under license.

Granix is a registered trademark of Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

Zarxio and Ziextenzo are registered trademarks of Novartis AG.

Renflexis and Ontruzant are registered trademarks of Organon.

Remicade is a registered trademark of Janssen Biotech, Inc.

Fulphila and Ogivri are registered trademarks of Biosimilars Newco Ltd., a Biocon Biologics Company.

Stimufend is a registered trademark of Fresenius Kabi.

Udenyca is a registered trademark of Coherus BioSciences, Inc.

Rituxan is a registered trademark of Biogen, Inc.