

## Biosimilars with “preferred” status

Good news! We have expanded our use of biosimilars to help reduce prescription drug costs for AZ Blue members. Effective January 1, 2025, more biosimilars are on the list of preferred medications.

### To ensure coverage, start with the preferred products

When you prescribe listed drugs, please start with the preferred options. We will only cover a non-preferred option after the preferred products have been tried and failed, or are contraindicated.

### The right biosimilars can help lower member cost

The use of preferred biosimilars may lower drug cost share for members by an average of 15%-20%. But are they safe and effective? Yes. The FDA evaluates and approves biosimilar drugs only after research determines 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>

Effective	No clinical difference when compared with the reference biologic Identical in dosage form and administration route
Safe	Same use indications Manufactured under the same FDA standards
Positive Patient Experience	Same patient health outcomes Average cost of a preferred biosimilar may be <b>15%-20% less than a non-preferred product</b>

### Preferred status list

This updated list highlights the 2025 preferred status changes in yellow:

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

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

<b>Filgrastim</b>	Nivestym® (biosimilar)	Q5110	Preferred
	Zarxio® (biosimilar)	Q5101	Preferred
	Granix® (biosimilar)	J1447	Non-preferred
	Neupogen® (brand reference)	J1442	Non-preferred
	Releuko® (biosimilar)	Q5125	Non-preferred
<b>Infliximab</b>	Inflectra® (biosimilar)	Q5103	Preferred
	Renflexis® (biosimilar)	Q5104	Preferred
	Avsola® (biosimilar)	Q5121	Non-preferred
	Infliximab (biosimilar)	J1745	Non-preferred
	Remicade® (brand reference)	J1745	Non-preferred
<b>Pegfilgrastim</b>	Fulphila® (biosimilar)	Q5108	Preferred
	Fylneta® (biosimilar)	J3590	Preferred
	Neulasta®/Neulasta® Onpro® (brand reference)	J2506	Preferred
	Nyvepria™ (biosimilar)	Q5122	Non-preferred
	Stimufend® (biosimilar)	J3590	Non-preferred
	Udenyca® (biosimilar)	Q5111	Non-preferred
	Ziextenzo® (biosimilar)	Q5120	Non-preferred
<b>Ranibizumab</b>	Byooviz™ (biosimilar)	Q5124	Preferred
	Lucentis® (brand reference)	J2778	Preferred
	Cimerli® (biosimilar)	Q5128	Non-preferred
<b>Rituximab</b>	Rituxan® (brand reference)	J9312	Preferred
	Ruxience® (biosimilar)	Q5119	Preferred
	Riabni™ (biosimilar)	Q5123	Non-preferred
	Truxima® (biosimilar)	Q5115	Non-preferred
<b>Trastuzumab</b>	Kanjinti® (biosimilar)	Q5117	Preferred
	Ogivri® (biosimilar)	Q5114	Preferred
	Trazimera™ (biosimilar)	Q5116	Preferred
	Herceptin® (brand reference)	J9355	Non-preferred
	Herzuma® (biosimilar)	Q5113	Non-preferred
	Ontruzant® (biosimilar)	Q5112	Non-preferred

Brand reference = the biologic that was first to market and is used for biosimilar comparison.

**REMINDER:** We require trial and failure, or contraindication of all preferred products before we will cover the use of a non-preferred option.

### More information

Please download and share our [updated criteria](#) with your clinical and administrative support teams. If you have questions about the updates, feel free to contact the AZ Blue Pharmacy team at 602-864-4028 or send an email to [PharmCare@azblue.com](mailto:PharmCare@azblue.com).

Zirabev, Nivestym, Inflectra, Nyvepria, Ruxience, and Trazimera are registered trademarks of Pfizer Inc.  
Avastin, Herceptin, and Lucentis are registered trademarks of Genentech USA, Inc.  
Alymsys, Releuko, and Fylnetra are registered trademarks of Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC.  
Mvasi, Neupogen, Avsola, Neulasta, Riabni, and Onpro are registered trademarks 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 Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.  
Zarxio and Ziextenzo are registered trademarks of Sandoz AG.  
Renflexis and Ontruzant are registered trademarks of Organon.  
Remicade is a registered trademark of Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine.  
Fulphila and Ogivri are registered trademarks of Biosimilars Newco Ltd., a Biocon Biologics Co.  
Stimufend is a registered trademark of Fresenius Kabi.  
Udenyca and Cimerli are registered trademarks of Coherus BioSciences, Inc.  
Rituxan and Byooviz are registered trademarks of Biogen, Inc.