

# Fact Sheet: Biosimilars

## Background:

Biosimilars are medications that are highly similar to existing biologic medicines used to treat many chronic conditions, including autoimmune and autoinflammatory arthritis. Biosimilars were created to increase treatment options, encourage competition, and help lower healthcare costs. While they are similar to the original medicine, they are not exact copies in the same way generic drugs are.

In short, biosimilars were designed to improve access to treatment while helping make healthcare more affordable.

## Biosimilars can improve access, but treatment decisions should remain between patients and healthcare providers.

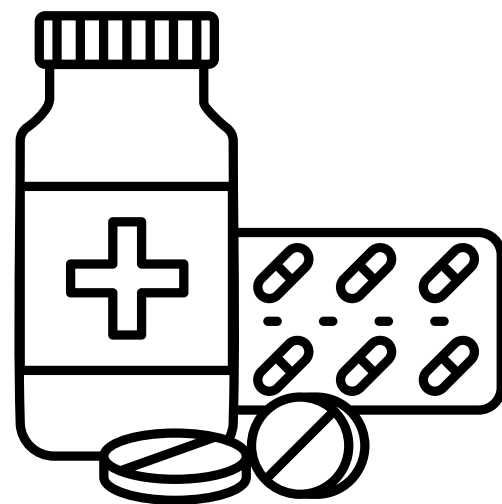
People living with autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions often rely on biologic medications to manage their disease. Biosimilars can provide additional treatment options and may help lower costs for patients and the healthcare system. While biosimilars are safe and effective treatment options, some patients may respond differently to a medication change. Many patients are concerned when treatment switches are driven by insurance coverage or cost-saving measures rather than medical decisions made with their healthcare provider. AiArthritis believes treatment decisions should be made by patients and their healthcare providers. Patient health, treatment stability, and individual experiences should always come first.

## What can be done?

Patients and caregivers can learn about biosimilars and share their experiences with healthcare providers, policymakers, and patient advocacy organizations. Staying informed helps patients advocate for policies that expand access to treatment while protecting patient choice. Connecting with AiArthritis is another way to stay engaged and ensure patient voices are included in healthcare policy discussions. Your experiences matter and can help shape policies that put patients first. We don't represent the patient voice, we are the patient voice.

## In conclusion

Biosimilars were created to increase access to important treatments and help lower healthcare costs. For many patients, they offer safe and effective treatment options that can improve affordability and expand access to care. At the same time, patients deserve confidence that treatment decisions are based on what is best for their health, not solely on financial considerations. While biosimilars play an important role in the healthcare system, decisions about starting or switching treatments should involve patients and their healthcare providers whenever possible. Patients deserve policies that improve access, protect treatment stability, and keep patient needs at the center of every decision.



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