

## Biosimilar medicines have delivered 18BN€ total savings for Europe but more action needed to translate this potential into patient access and sustainable health systems

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Over the next decade, many more biological medicines are set to lose market exclusivity, representing an opportunity to increase competition and offer invaluable resources for healthcare systems to improve patient access and healthcare budget sustainability while significantly reducing equity gaps across Europe.

The annual IQVIA report, entitled '[The Impact of Biosimilar Competition in Europe](#)', describes the evolution in price, volume, and market share following the arrival of biosimilar competition in Europe. In a series of five key observations, it is evident that biosimilar medicines deliver benefits and efficiency for patients and healthcare systems whenever they are used successfully. In their report IQVIA notes:

- **COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic impacted patients receiving biological treatment, particularly cancer patients.
- **Savings:** Since the start of biosimilar competition, EU countries have saved 18BN€, highlighting the important role of biosimilar medicines in the affordability and sustainability of healthcare.
- **Access:** Development of patient access to biological medicines remains challenging, even when biosimilar medicines are available, emphasising that countries need to do more to capitalise on the potential for expanded access with biosimilar medicines.
- **Competition:** The competitive environment underlines the increasing diversity of biosimilar competitors.
- **Future:** Countries need to prepare to fully seize the increasing opportunity with biosimilar medicines, adapting the regulatory and market environments in support of biosimilar medicines development for smaller patient populations.

Commenting on the presentation of the IQVIA report, Isabell Remus, Chair of the Biosimilar medicines sector group of Medicines for Europe, stated: *"Patients should have equitable access to the therapy they need irrespective of where they live. However, in Europe we still see unacceptable inequalities. For over 15 years, biosimilar medicines have provided effective solutions that balance patient access and healthcare sustainability. Now, healthcare systems face steadily increasing costs, and the COVID-19 pandemic is just making the situation more challenging, jeopardising access, equity, and sustainability. Biosimilars are part of the solution, and they will only deliver their full potential with the continuous and strong support of the European Commission and every member state implementing the suitable policy interventions in support of uptake."*