



# Delivering best access to care for people with chronic diseases



#HealthierTogether

## Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for 80% of the disease burden in EU countries

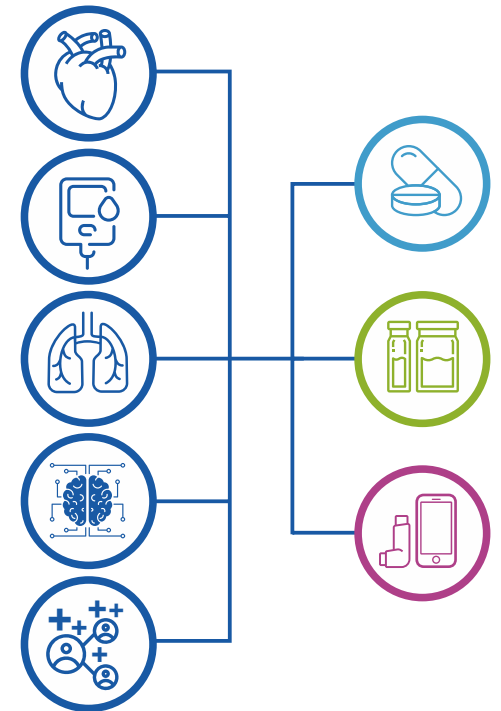
**Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental disorders, neurological disorders, or cancer are responsible for **80%** of the disease burden in the **EU countries**. They are the leading causes of avoidable premature deaths<sup>1</sup>.

Among the NCDs that place a particular strain on healthcare resources and illustrate inequitable access to therapies, there are also some chronic autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis.

Tackling this pressing public health issue requires a **multi-faceted approach**: preventative measures addressing the root causes of **NCDs** must go hand in hand with effective strategies to treat patients who are already affected by these debilitating diseases and prevent the disease from worsening.

The availability of affordable off-patent treatments for **NCDs** is key in improving equitable access to care: the **generic, biosimilar** and **value added medicines** industries directly contribute to addressing inequitable **access to treatment**. Importantly, **where smart policies** for their use are implemented, off-patent medicines can generate efficiency gains in the form of savings as well as re-investment capacity along the care continuum: **preventative measures, screening and diagnostics, and life-long care**.

Yet, significant disparities in the use of these important medicines and the reinvestment of savings generated through **competition** remain across European Member States and therapy areas. How can we fully realise the potential of off-patent medicines in the treatment of NCDs?



## How can we fully realise the potential of off-patent medicines in the treatment of NCDs?



Delivering best access to care  
for people with chronic diseases



### Incentivising the uptake of off-patent medicines

Incentives to increase the **uptake of off-patent medicines** and **sustainable market policies** should be encouraged to ensure governments benefit from increased **cost-efficiency**, patients benefit from access to essential, high-quality treatments and the **sustainability of the market** is ensured in the long-term.



### Increasing efficiency of the European regulatory system

Increased efficiency of the **European regulatory system**, in line with the objectives of the **Pharmaceutical Strategy**, will lead to better operational capabilities and timely availability.



### Reinvesting savings generated through the use of off-patent medicines

**Savings** generated through the use of **off-patent medicines** should be reinvested – at least in part – into tangible benefits for the patients. Reinvestment can result in access to **better care, improved prevention,** and more **timely diagnoses.**



### Recognising Value Added Medicines (VAMs) as a separate category of medicines in the EU

The recognition of **Value Added Medicines (VAMs)** as a separate category of medicines in the EU, with a dedicated regulatory pathway and appropriate incentives, will encourage **affordable, timely available and patient-centric innovation** through the optimisation of existing medicines.

 **Want to know more?**

→ Filling the gap – How off-patent medicines can improve the equity and quality of cancer care <https://bit.ly/300A9Vn>