



# Diabetes

Off-patent medicines can start a virtuous circle of high-quality treatments and better prevention

#HealthierTogether



## 3/4 of diabetes-related care costs are due to preventable complications

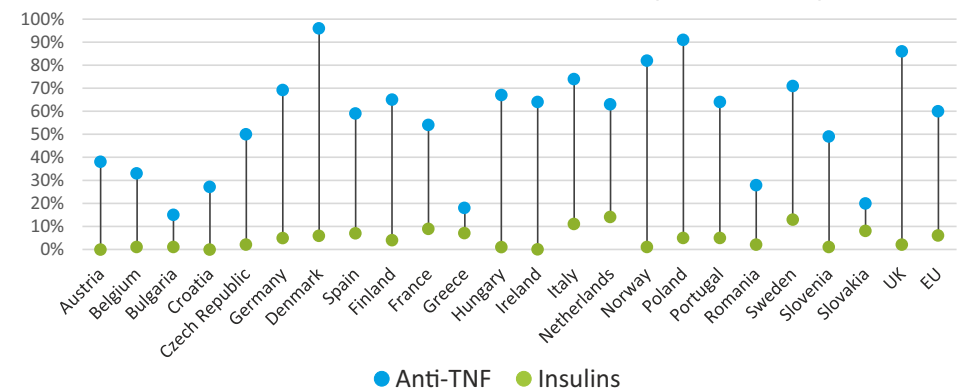
**Diabetes** is a significant global challenge, affecting individuals across the globe. In Europe, **61 million people** (1 in 11 adults) live with diabetes as of 2021 and this number is predicted to **rise to 69 million by 2045**<sup>1</sup>. In the same region, almost 180 billion EUR were spent on diabetes in 2021<sup>2</sup>, with preventable complications of the disease accounting for **3/4 of diabetes-related care costs**<sup>3</sup>. Cost-effectiveness is essential when looking at solutions and healthcare interventions to address this disease.



## Off-patent medicines: improving access to medication

The availability of **biosimilar insulins/insulin analogues and generic diabetes medicines** can improve access to medication, which is a key prerequisite for appropriate disease management. The use of these safe, effective, and **high-quality off-patent medicines generates savings** through lower medicines acquisition costs and lower treatment costs without compromising on the level of care.

Use of biosimilar medicines is significantly lower in diabetes therapy compared to other therapeutic areas (e.g. rheumatology)



1. IDF Diabetes Atlas 10<sup>th</sup> edition <https://diabetesatlas.org/>

2. IDF Diabetes Atlas 10<sup>th</sup> edition <https://diabetesatlas.org/>

3. Blueprint for action on diabetes in the European Union by 2030 and EU NCD Initiative Stakeholder Webinar 3 February 2022 <https://bit.ly/3b7Uzxp>

4. IQVIA. The Impact of Biosimilar Competition in Europe. 2021 <https://bit.ly/3HEvxCc>

## Solutions



### Increasing uptake of off-patent medications for the therapy of diabetes

**7 years** after the first insulin biosimilar coming on the market, the uptake of biosimilar insulins/insulin analogues remains very low with an average of **10%** across the EU, compared to, for example, 60% for anti-TNFs. (see data on previous page).

**Increased uptake of off-patent medications for diabetes, and particularly insulins, can result in better management of the disease through improved access to therapy.** This is achieved with smaller upfront costs incurred by payers for the purchase of medications as well as the avoidance of complications owing to better glucose management, which leads to further savings.



*The UK Guideline for the managed introduction of biosimilar basal insulin<sup>5</sup> provides an example of a simple and effective setup to drive increased uptake through initiation or transfer of patients to biosimilar insulins.*



### Virtuous circle of savings and reinvestments

Importantly, **savings generated by choosing off-patent medicines over pre-existing alternatives can and should be reinvested to benefit patients who have diabetes or incur the risk of developing it.** This can lead to a virtuous circle of savings and reinvestments: adding improved prevention, screening and investment in primary care infrastructure to better disease management leading to further benefits for both patients and healthcare systems.



### Calls for action

**Biosimilar and generic medicines** are safe, effective and high-quality options for the treatment of numerous non-communicable diseases, including diabetes. They are enablers of value-based healthcare.

**Savings generated through the use of off-patent medicines should be reinvested** – at least in part – into access to **better care**, in a pragmatic and transparent way, with tangible benefits for the patients.

**A long-term and holistic approach to healthcare budgets maximises the benefits delivered by biosimilar medicines:** when resources are employed effectively, the whole healthcare community can gain, starting with the patients.

 **Want to know more?**

 A Biosimilar medicines Access Policy Blueprint <https://bit.ly/3QsjdZQ>