

Biosimilar Medicines Virtual Summit 2021: EU barometer for resilient access to biologics

How does a healthy, competitive biosimilar medicines market enable better care for patients?

The experience to date shows that biosimilar medicines bring competition to the pharmaceutical market, leading to a significant **increase in patient access** to high quality treatments. Not only can more patients become eligible for treatment, but biosimilar medicines can also be used earlier in the treatment course, thus enabling patients to enjoy a better quality of life. Furthermore, there are invaluable opportunities for healthcare systems to significantly reduce equity gaps across Europe. Even in countries where patients

already benefit from high levels of access to biological treatments, the introduction of biosimilar medicines further increases patient access.

In addition to increased access to biological therapies for patients, **benefit-sharing models**, where part of the savings from the use of biosimilar medicines is reinvested to provide tangible benefits for patients, can and should be implemented. For example, the savings can be reinvested in additional healthcare services to support patient care.

How can we achieve a long-term sustainable biological market in order to seize the full opportunity of biosimilar medicines?



Create a healthy, competitive market

Removal of barriers that delay the timely entry of biosimilar medicines to market, blocking or limiting their uptake.



A powerful and supportive role for European Institutions

Best-practice sharing across countries and assertive communication on the benefits of biosimilar medicines.



Early and strong involvement of healthcare professionals

Educating healthcare professionals about the benefits of biosimilar medicines and implementing incentives to promote their use.



Prepare for the future

Horizon-scanning is essential to be ready for future launches of biosimilar medicines.

What is needed to deliver the long-term benefits of biosimilar medicines?



Healthcare is a top priority for many European countries. The economic aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to affect public budgets and will encourage governments to look closely at their healthcare expenditure.

We therefore need to look beyond the obvious and create win-win-win policies for biosimilar medicines, where payers and insurers benefit from increased cost-efficiency, patients benefit from better access to biological treatments and the sustainability of the biosimilar marketplace is ensured so that these benefits are enjoyed by stakeholders in the long-term. This can be achieved by:

- **Rethinking procurement processes** to ensure security of supply: multi-winner tenders, using selection criteria that consider other factors than price and ensure fair competition, and timely reopening of the procurement processes after the entry of the first biosimilar medicine.
- **Optimising pricing mechanisms** and avoiding the application of short-term cost-containment measures and measures that create a downward price spiral. Ensuring predictable market environments by focusing on long-term sustainable policies (a multi-faceted, holistic, multi-stakeholder approach).
- **Implementing clear incentives to stimulate the use of biosimilar medicines** by providing necessary information (education) and creating compelling incentives for all stakeholders involved. Special attention should be paid to the biosimilar retail market, as the use of biosimilar medicines tends to be lower here compared to the hospital setting.

