Biosimilar Medicines Virtual Summit 2021:

From disruption to care for cancer patients

How do biosimilar medicines enable better care for cancer patients?

Biosimilar medicines are biologic medicines that can be used safely and effectively in oncology and other therapy areas. Some of these medicines are so important that they are included in the WHO essential medicines list.

Using biosimilar medicines instead of the corresponding reference products generally results in significant savings for healthcare systems and/or patients thanks to competition in the market.

Savings generated through the use of biosimilar medicines can and should be reinvested transparently in allowing more patients who need them to access these medicines, and in other areas of cancer care. They should be directed to provide tangible benefits for patients, for example by using them to set up and amplify screening and prevention programs or by hiring more healthcare professionals to support the patient care journey.

How can educational resources and efforts best meet patients information needs on biosimilar medicines?

Multiple stakeholders can play a role in promoting effective, science-based and accessible communication on biosimilar medicines:

- Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) have direct interactions with the patients and are trusted by them. Effective communication on the use of biosimilar medicines requires alignment among HCPs, to deliver appropriate and consistent messages in a clinical setting.
- Patient organisations can make the available information on biosimilar medicines more tailored to patient needs and readily available.
- Regulators are trusted and unbiased sources, which can provide important resources to HCPs and patients.
- Universities and educational institutions should integrate modules on biosimilar medicines across HCPs education pathways including continuous education.

How can we improve the way biosimilar medicines are used to treat cancer patients?

Information and outreach are key to promote the uptake of biosimilar medicines

Clear messages on their quality, safety and efficacy should reach the healthcare community and policy makers. Regulators can play a key role in this, as they are trusted and unbiased sources.

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.

European institutions can be instrumental in promoting the uptake of biosimilarmedicines to rectify inequities in access to cancer care

Incentivising investment in the development and production and sharing positive experiences with biosimilar medicines can drive greater access for cancer patients.

What practical steps can be taken to promote the uptake of biosimilars?

European Institutions must act now to ensure that biosimilar medicines fulfil their potential in rectifying the current inequalities in access to cancer care across EU member states. They can do so by:

- **Maintaining a strong and unequivocal position on the safety and efficacy of biosimilar medicines** based on years of experience.
- **Supporting biosimilar uptake** through tackling market barriers, aligning incentives for stakeholders particularly on how to bring efficiency in cancer care thanks to reinvestment of the freed-up budget into areas of need.
- **Providing a platform to share positive experiences and effective strategies that enabled sustained uptake of biosimilar medicines**, also by looking at other areas of medicine in which biosimilars have been available for longer than in oncology.

Buyers should avoid a race to the bottom for prices of biosimilar medicines, to ensure companies are incentivised in continuing to develop biosimilar medicines.

biosimilar medicines

a medicines for europe sector group