

# Integration of Biosimilars in Oncology Care



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# Why Have the Biosimilar Discussion?



- Biosimilars are here
- Payers, patients, providers, other stakeholders may request biosimilars
- Others turn to pharmacists as the experts on biosimilars
- Value proposition
- Implementation challenges



# Learning Objectives



- Review biologic drug evolution and cost trends
- Define biosimilars and discuss manufacturing process
- Review biosimilar implementation barriers and best practices
- Discuss biosimilar reimbursement and role in value-based care



# Background



Biologics have revolutionized treatment for serious conditions in past 20 years

- 1970      Biologic products mainly consisted of vaccines & blood products  
<10% pharmaceutical market
- 1980      Rise of cloning and gene expression technology  
Biosynthesis of genetically modified organisms  
Increasingly complex molecules  
1982 Genentech's recombinant human insulin  
1986 First FDA-approved monoclonal antibody (muromonab)  
1997 Entry of recombinant monoclonal antibodies for cancer treatment



1. Ledon, N., Lage, A. Biosimilars and the Real World. MEDICC, Vol 19, No 4. October 2017.
2. Kelley, T. *Biosimilars in Oncology: Reality Could Bite the Copycats, Dog Potential Major Savings.* Drug Management. MediMedia. March, 12, 2017

# Background



- Cost of biologic pharmaceuticals have reached an all time high
- Cancer drug cost increasing at twice the rate of general healthcare cost
- Biologics net spending reached 125.5 billion in 2018
- Median monthly cost of new U.S. cancer drugs surpassed the median monthly household income in year 2000 and more than doubled by 2014



1. Medicine Use and Spending in the U.S. A Review of 2018 and Outlook to 2023. May 2019. IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science. [https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/institute-reports/medicine-use-and-spending-in-the-us---a-review-of-2018-outlook-to-2023.pdf?\\_af=1602972025818](https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/institute-reports/medicine-use-and-spending-in-the-us---a-review-of-2018-outlook-to-2023.pdf?_af=1602972025818). Accessed October 17, 2020.

# Definition



- A **biosimilar** is a biologic agent that is NOT chemically identical, but is highly similar, to an approved reference biologic agent, notwithstanding minor differences in clinically inactive components, and with no meaningful differences in efficacy, safety, and purity.
- A **reference product** is an approved drug that is compared with new generic or biosimilar version to show bioequivalence of biosimilarity respectively



1. Declerck, P., Bakalos, G., Zintzaras, E., Barton, B., Schreitmuller, T. *Monoclonal Antibody Biosimilars in Oncology: Critical Appraisal of Available Data on Switching*. Clinical Therapeutics. Vol. 40; Nov 5, 2018.
2. Lyman, G., Zon, R., Harvey, D., Schilsky R. *Rationale, Opportunities, and Reality of Biosimilar Medications*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 378;21 May 24, 2018.

# Background



First biotech molecules to expire were relatively small

insulin	5,808	mass units
filgrastim	18,800	mass units
erythropoietin	30,400	mass units

Monoclonal antibodies are larger molecules

Some	150,000	mass units
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\*Greater molecular heterogeneity

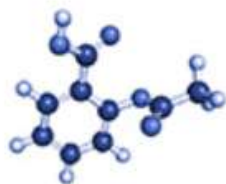


1. Ledon, N., Lage, A. Biosimilars and the Real World. MEDICC, Vol 19, No 4. October 2017.

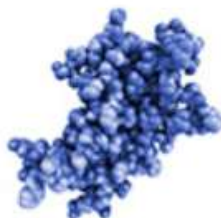
# Background



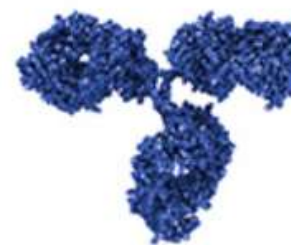
**Small molecule  
drugs (Chemical)**



**Small biologic**



**Large biologic**



complexity



1. <https://www.sandoz.com/stories/access-medicines/improving-access-biologic-medicines-through-biosimilars>. Accessed 3/10/2019





# Biosimilar Manufacturing



# Biosimilar Manufacturing



- Reverse-engineered
- Therapeutic proteins
  - Living cellular systems
  - Not stepwise chemical synthesis
- Essentially impossible to produce an identical copy of product
- Even batches of the same reference product that are produced with the use of the same cell line may be dissimilar.



1. Lyman, G., Zon, R., Harvey, D., Schilsky R. *Rationale, Opportunities, and Reality of Biosimilar Medications*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 378;21 May 24, 2018.

# Biosimilar Manufacturing



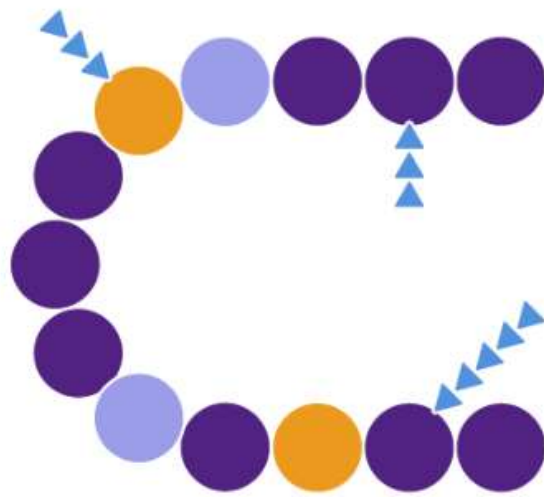
Biosimilars MUST have amino acid sequences that are the same as those in reference drug but may have minor differences due to:

- Post-translational protein modifications (e.g. alterations to C or N terminals)
- Glycosylation (e.g. addition of sugar residues to amino acids bearing amino or hydroxyl groups)
- Formulation (e.g. due to different excipients)

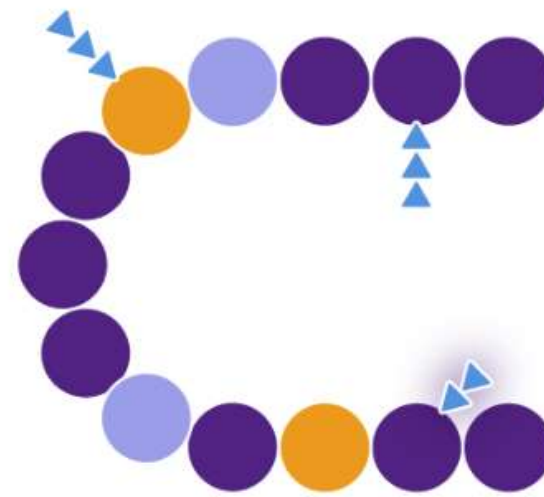


1. Lyman, G., Zon, R., Harvey, D., Schilsky R. *Rationale, Opportunities, and Reality of Biosimilar Medications*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 378;21 May 24, 2018.

# Biosimilar Manufacturing



Reference medicine



Biosimilar medicine



1. <https://www.epgonline.org/us/blogs/post/eular-2018-biosimilars.html>. Accessed 3/10/2019

# Biosimilar Manufacturing



## Molecular Variability “Drift”

- Differences at each step of manufacturing
- Not caused by production error
- Changes are inevitable based on current biologic production process
- Infliximab (37) etanercept (22) adalimumab (20) reported changes to regulator
- Accepted by regulatory entities without new clinical trials



1. Lyman, G., Zon, R., Harvey, D., Schilsky R. *Rationale, Opportunities, and Reality of Biosimilar Medications*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 378;21 May 24, 2018.
2. Ledon, N., Lage, A. Biosimilars and the Real World. MEDICC, Vol 19, No 4. October 2017.
3. Sullivan, P., DiGrazia, L. Analytical Characterization of Biosimilars. Am J Health-Syst Pharm Vo 74 No 8. April, 2017



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# Biosimilar Manufacturing



## Molecular Variability “Drift”

- Manufacturer mandatory comparability plan
  - Product quality data compared before and after change
  - Routine continuous analyses on batches compared to historical data
- Biosimilar approval requires submission of *analytical comparability* and clinical studies that is much more extensive and in-depth compared to original producers after production process changes after regulatory approval



1. Lyman, G., Zon, R., Harvey, D., Schilsky R. *Rationale, Opportunities, and Reality of Biosimilar Medications*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 378;21 May 24, 2018.
2. Ledon, N., Lage, A. Biosimilars and the Real World. MEDICC, Vol 19, No 4. October 2017.
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# Biosimilar Regulatory Approval



# Regulatory Approval



Public Health Service Act

2009

Amendment

Biologic Price Competition and Innovation (BPCI) Act [351(k)]

Abbreviated Licensure Pathways for biologics demonstrating “biosimilarity” or “Interchangeability” with FDA-licensed biologics

351(k) Not intended to re-establish proposed product “safety” & “efficacy”

351(k) Demonstrate proposed product is *highly similar* to reference biologic



1. Sullivan, P., DiGrazia, L. Analytical Characterization of Biosimilars. Am J Health-Syst Pharm Vo 74 No 8. April, 2017



# Regulatory Approval



## REFERENCE MEDICINE DEVELOPMENT

Main goal is to determine the clinical effect for each indication

## BIOSIMILAR DEVELOPMENT

Main goal is to establish similarity to the reference medicine



1. <https://www.sandoz.com/our-work/biopharmaceuticals/development-biosimilars>.
2. Accessed 3/10/2019



# Barriers to Entry

## Operational Implementation



# Barriers to Entry



## What is the biggest barrier to using biosimilars at your cancer program? Select one.

Poll Results (single answer required):

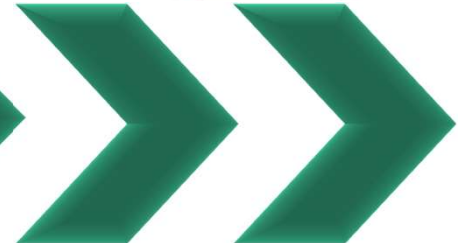


1. "Managing Oncology Drug Cost" Live Poll. Advisory Board. 6/13/2019

# Operational Challenges



## Mobilization of Resources and Teams



Information  
Technology

Drug  
Authorization  
Team

Drug Patient  
Assistance

Prescribers

Scheduling

Educators

Nursing

Pharmacy

Financial  
Counselors

Inpatient vs. Outpatient Teams



# Operational Challenges – Individualized Product Selection



Action	Previous	Current
<b>Order</b>	Specific Product e.g., OnPro	Generic order e.g., pegfilgrastim; not pointing to a particular product
<b>Authorization Team Seeks Payer Certification</b>	For specific product ordered by provider	As follow in order of preference: 1- Facility Preferred Product (previously determined by P&T) 2- If payer restrict to one product then tailor to payer coverage
<b>Payer Certification Documentation</b>	Only visible in Business Office (BO) system	Made available to pharmacy team via interface with pharmacy verification system
<b>Product Selection</b>	Back to prescribing provider if payer required a product different than originally order	Pharmacy selects product to be dispensed based on documentation payer certification

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# Operational Challenges – Individualized Product Selection



- Transformational for efficiencies
- Satisfier to both Business Office and providers
- Pharmacy is in a lead role
  - Expecting provider to know which product to order relative to payer is unrealistic
- Positioned for success
  - Increasing number of biosimilar expected
  - Increasing number of formulations (e.g., SC)







# Barriers to Entry Reimbursement



# Barriers to Entry – Reimbursement



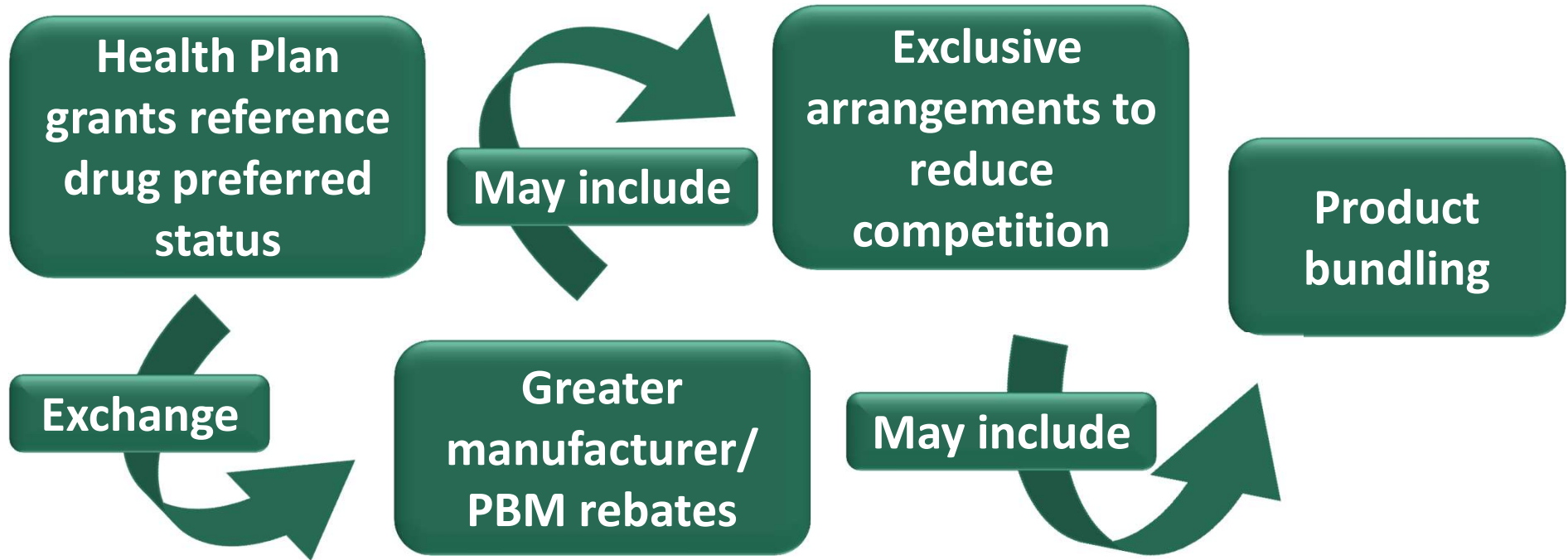
- Medicare, Medicaid and commercial payers have all approached biosimilar reimbursement differently
  
- Eroding revenue landscape
  1. new reimbursement models
  2. cuts from payer and government agencies
  3. marketplace ASP evolution
  4. margin declines



1. Wechsler, J. FDA Struggles to Advance Biosimilars. PharmExec.com Commercial Insights for the C-Suite. Volume 38, Issue 9. Sept,01,2018
2. Nabhan, C., Valley, A., Feinberg, B. *Barriers to Oncology Biosimilars Uptake in the United States*. The Oncologist. 2018;23:1261-1265
3. Lyman, G., Balaban, E., Diaz, M., Ferris, A., Tsao, A., Voest, E., Zon, R., Francisco, M., Green, S., Sherwood, S., Harvey, D., Schilsky, R. American Society of Clinical Oncology Statement: Biosimilars in Oncology. Journal of Clinical Oncology. Vol. 36 No. 12 April 2018.



# Barriers to Entry – Rebate Arrangements “Rebate Trap”



- Highly controversial

Nabhan, C., Valley, A., Feinberg, B. *Barriers to Oncology Biosimilars Uptake in the United States*. The Oncologist. 2018;23:1261-1265  
2. Editorial. Factors Influencing the Economics of Biosimilars in the US. Journal of Medical Economics. Vol 20, No 12, 1268-1271. 2017



# Value-Based Oncology Care



## Health Plan 1

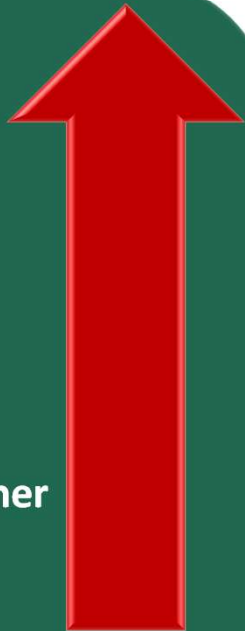
[Rebate Model]

Drug A

Receives rebate from drug manufacturer

Requires practice to utilize higher cost reference product

Pays provider more based on higher charges



## Health Plan 2

[No Rebate Model]

Drug A

DOES NOT receive rebate from drug manufacturer

Allows practice to use and realize cost savings from biosimilar

Benefits from lower charges from provider



# Barriers to Entry – Reimbursement



## Medicare Reimbursement - Non 340b Entities

Reference	Average Selling Price (ASP) + 6%
Biosimilar WAC-Based	Biosimilar WAC* + 3%
Biosimilar ASP-Based	Biosimilar ASP + 6% of Reference ASP

ASP = Average Selling Price

WAC = Wholesaler Acquisition Cost

\*Until ASP is established in 2-3 quarters

1. Part B Biosimilar Biological Product Payment and Required Modifiers. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/Part-B-Biosimilar-Biological-Product-Payment> . Accessed October 19



# Barriers to Entry – Reimbursement



## Medicare Reimbursement - Non 340b Entities

Reference	Average Selling Price (ASP) – 22.5%
Biosimilar ASP-Based	Biosimilar ASP* + 6% of Reference ASP
Biosimilar ASP-Based	Biosimilar ASP – 22.5% of Biosimilar ASP



ASP = Average Selling Price

WAC = Wholesaler Acquisition Cost

\*For at least 3 years after ASP is established

1. Part B Biosimilar Biological Product Payment and Required Modifiers. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/Part-B-Biosimilar-Biological-Product-Payment> . Accessed October 19



# Biosimilars in Value-Based Care



# Fee-For-Service Payment Model



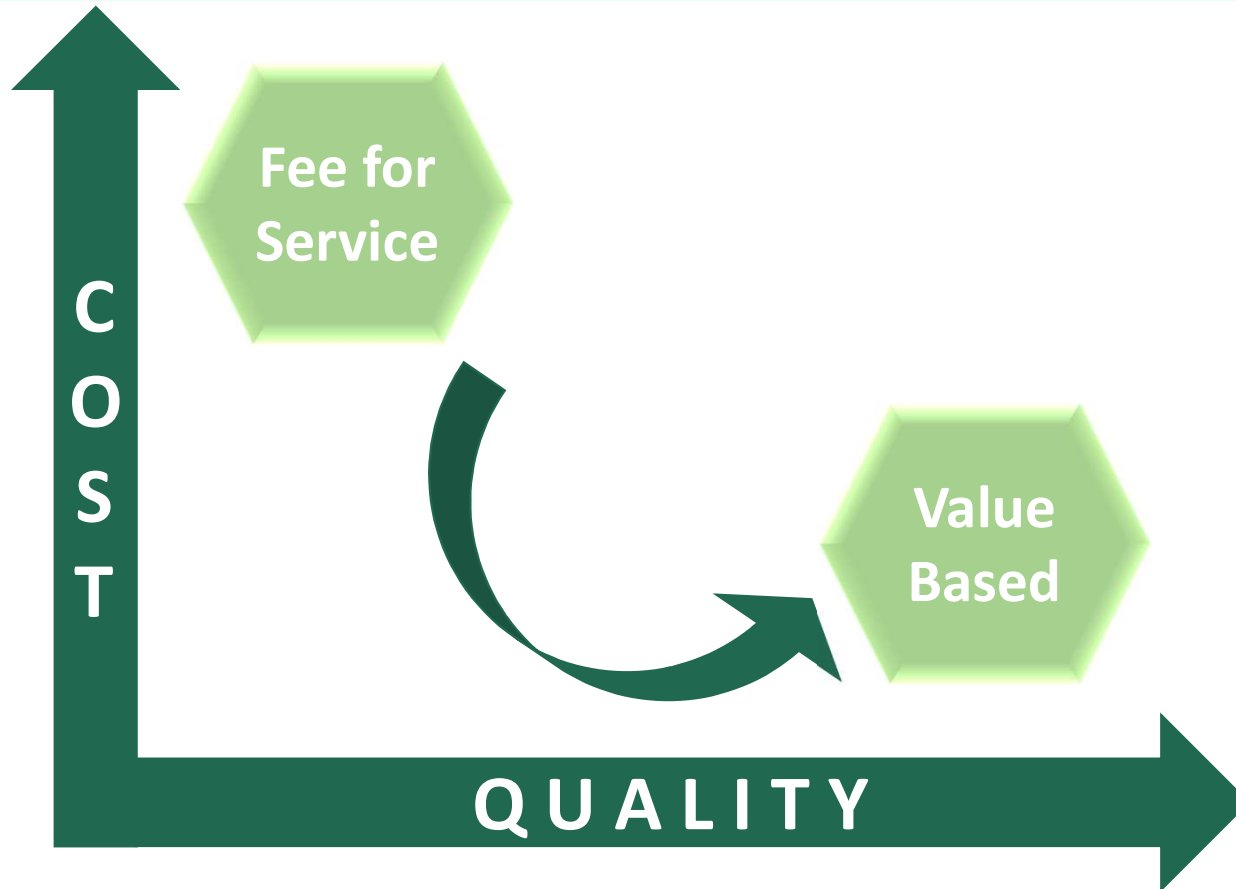
*Increased  
healthcare  
utilization  
and  
spending*

*Call for different  
types of contracts*





# Value Driven Healthcare



# Oncology Care Model



## Biosimilars Impact Goals

- Increase affordability
- Increase access to biologic treatments
- Improve outcomes
- Improve HRQoL
- Europe > U.S.

## Biosimilars' Value Proposition



HRQoL = Health Related Quality of Life

1. Patel, K., Arantes, L., Tang, W., Fung, S. *The Role of Biosimilars in Value-Based Oncology Care*. Cancer management and Research 2018:10 4591-4602



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# Value-Based – Patient Access



## Biosimilars Impact on Patient Medication Access

### Number Needed to Treat (NNT):

Number of patients needed to treat to:

1. prevent ONE additional bad outcome
2. achieve ONE additional good outcome



1. Sun, D., Andayani, T., Altyar, A., MacDonald, K., Abraham, I. *Potential Cost Savings From Chemotherapy-Induced Febrile Neutropenia With Biosimilar Filgrastim and Expanded Access to Targeted Antineoplastic Treatment Across the European Union G5 Countries: A Simulation Study.* Clinical Therapeutics. Vol 37 No. 4, 2015.



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# Value-Based – Patient Access



## Potential Cost Savings From Chemotherapy-Induced Febrile Neutropenia With Biosimilar Filgrastim and Expanded Access to Targeted Antineoplastic Treatment Across the European Union G5 Countries: A Simulation Study

Diana Sun, MS<sup>1,2</sup>; Tri Murti Andayani, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Ahmed Altyar, PharmD<sup>1,4</sup>;  
Karen MacDonald, PhD<sup>2</sup>; and Ivo Abraham, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>



1. Sun, D., Andayani, T., Altyar, A., MacDonald, K., Abraham, I. *Potential Cost Savings From Chemotherapy-Induced Febrile Neutropenia With Biosimilar Filgrastim and Expanded Access to Targeted Antineoplastic Treatment Across the European Union G5 Countries: A Simulation Study*. *Clinical Therapeutics*. Vol 37 No. 4, 2015.



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# Value-Based – Patient Access



## Number Needed to Convert (NNC)

Number of patients needed to convert, to treat ONE additional patient

Table III. Cost savings and expanded treatment access achieved under 100% conversion from originator filgrastim to biosimilar filgrastim (per a panel of 10,000 patients with cancer).

Variable	100% Conversion to Biosimilar Filgrastim
Day 14	
Cost savings from conversion, €	13,734,000
Expanded treatment access, No.	
Rituximab (NHL)	1213 (additional treatments, ie, 8% of annual incident patients)
Trastuzumab (BC)	461 (additional treatments, ie, 5% of annual incident patients)

BC = breast cancer; NHL = non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

1. Sun, D., Andayani, T., Altyar, A., MacDonald, K., Abraham, I. *Potential Cost Savings From Chemotherapy-Induced Febrile Neutropenia With Biosimilar Filgrastim and Expanded Access to Targeted Antineoplastic Treatment Across the European Union G5 Countries: A Simulation Study.* Clinical Therapeutics. Vol 37 No. 4, 2015.



# Value-Based – Patient Access

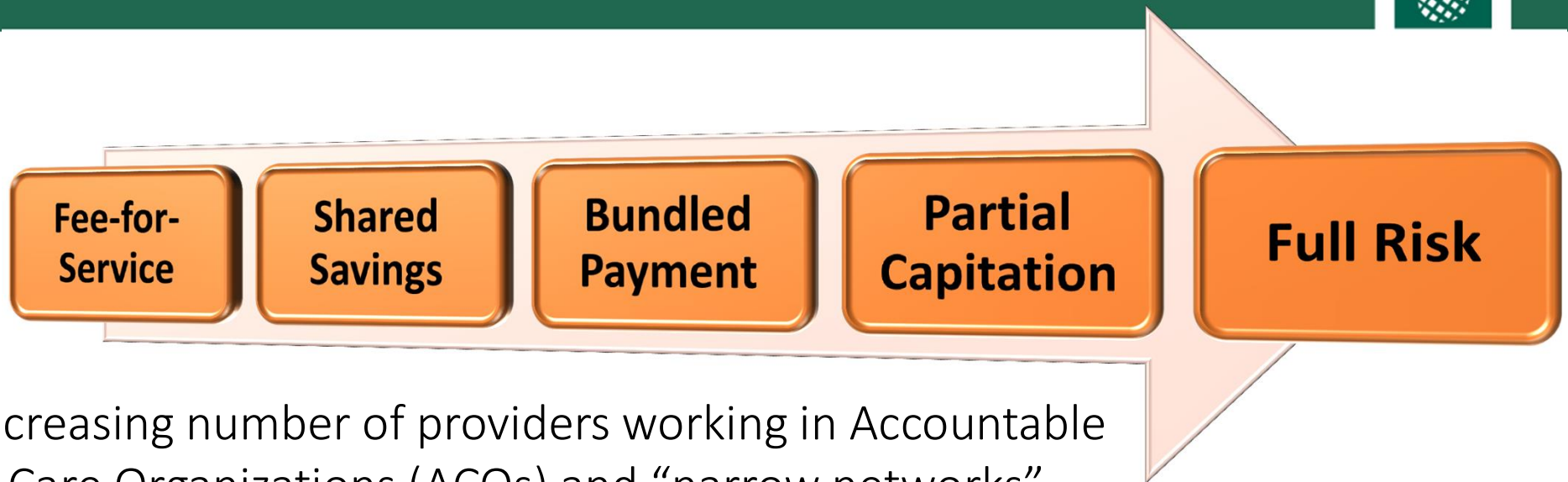


Reference bevacizumab	\$790	<i>Access to ONE additional bevacizumab unit per 2.3 purchases</i>
Biosimilar bevacizumab	\$550	
Reference trastuzumab	\$1,540	<i>Access to ONE additional trastuzumab unit per 1.3 purchases</i>
Biosimilar trastuzumab	\$880	



1. Sun, D., Andayani, T., Altyar, A., MacDonald, K., Abraham, I. *Potential Cost Savings From Chemotherapy-Induced Febrile Neutropenia With Biosimilar Filgrastim and Expanded Access to Targeted Antineoplastic Treatment Across the European Union G5 Countries: A Simulation Study.* Clinical Therapeutics. Vol 37 No. 4, 2015.

# Payment Model Evolution



- Increasing number of providers working in Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and “narrow networks”
  - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) / Highmark - Allegheny Health System / Kaiser
  - Self-insured Employee Health Plans



# Role of Employers in Value-Based Care



- Employers are the number one purchaser of health insurance
- Employers have a limited understanding of opportunities and risks
- Employers are in a position to influence benefit designs (e.g. biosimilar coverage) but need to understand obstacles
- Employers can align incentives at point of purchase
  - Getting system-owned specialty pharmacy in network
  - At parity biosimilar coverage



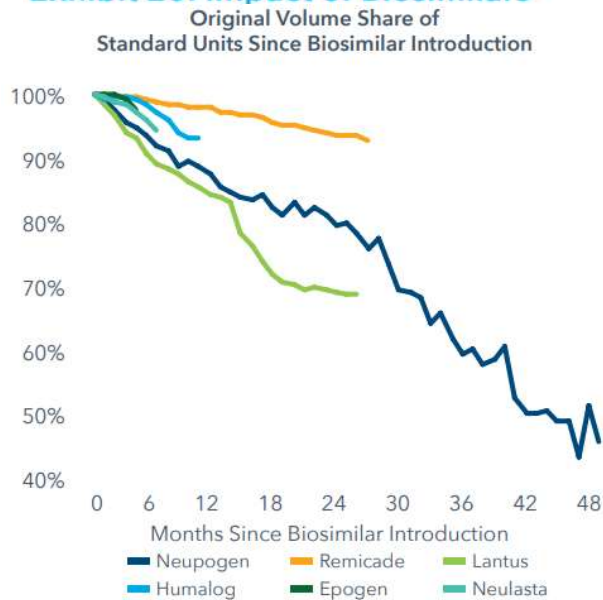


# Current State of Affairs



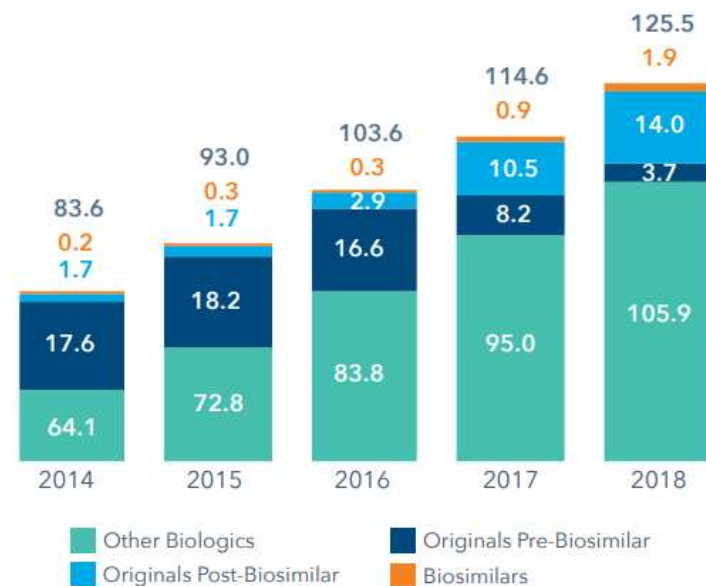
## Biologics growth continues and biosimilars now compete for market share among medicines with \$15.9 billion in spending

**Exhibit 20: Impact of Biosimilars**



Source: IQVIA National Sales Perspectives, IQVIA Institute, Jan 2019

Biologics Net Spending US\$Bn



1. Medicine Use and Spending in the U.S. A Review of 2018 and Outlook to 2023. May 2019. IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science. [https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/institute-reports/medicine-use-and-spending-in-the-us---a-review-of-2018-outlook-to-2023.pdf?\\_=1602972025818](https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/institute-reports/medicine-use-and-spending-in-the-us---a-review-of-2018-outlook-to-2023.pdf?_=1602972025818). Accessed October 17, 2020.



# Summary



- Biologics have revolutionized the treatment of serious health conditions over the last few decades
- Biologic innovation and marked utilization increases have led to a significant increase in healthcare spending
- Biosimilars offer high quality treatment alternatives at a fraction of the cost
  - Biosimilars provide a strong cost savings value proposition which helps practices achieve better performance in value-based payment models



# Summary



- Many pre- and post-marketing implementation barriers exist leading to slow adoption of biosimilar utilization in the U.S.
- To reap the potential economic benefit biosimilars must be utilized
- Healthcare professionals uniquely positioned to promote the evaluation of the growing body of evidence and enable biosimilar utilization where there is evidence to support the use.



Lawless, G. *Overcoming Challenges in the Emerging Biosimilar Landscape*. Journal of managed Care Medicine. Vol. 20 No. 4 July, 2017

# Integration of Biosimilars in Oncology Care



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Assistant Vice President - System Oncology Pharmacy Service Line  
Baptist Health South Florida

# Questions?

