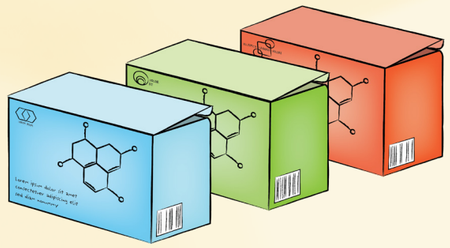
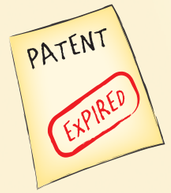
Biosimilar biologics in Canada



A biosimilar biologic is highly similar to its originator biologc



After an originator's patent expires, other companies are allowed to produce their own biosimilar version of it. Because biosimilars are produced post-patent, biosimilar manufacturers do not have the same costs to bring the product to market and can therefore offer it at a lower price[1]

There is no clinically, meaningful difference in safety, efficacy or quality

Health Canada has approved more than 33 biosimilars to help treat Canadians living with inflammatory arthritis, cancer, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis

Biologic drugs make up some of public and private drug plans' largest drug expenditures. Even though less expensive biosimilars provide same therapeutic benefits as their originators, the uptake in Canada of biosimilars continues to be very low

Biosimilar biologics can improve access to biologics and produce significant savings for public and private healthcare systems

- The Patented Medicines Pricing Review Board has estimated that private and public drug plans across Canada could save from $332 million CDN to $181 billion CDN in the third year following biosimilar entry across a portfolio of product[2]
- Biosimilars savings can modernize "special access criteria," removing the need for patients to fail on older therapies before approving reimbursement for biosimilars
- Biosimilar savings can be reinvested into public and private drug plan budgets making it possible to add new medications
- Biosimilar savings can help improve non-medication elements of care that patients need, such as specialized nursing, counseling, physio- and occupational therapy
- Through the launch of biosimilar transition policies, British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick are using biosimilars savings to improve the sustainability of their drug plans by adding new medicine listings and boosting existing medication coverage for patients

Transitioning to a biosimilar biologic

"Medical transition" occurs when a patient, not doing well on their current originator or biosimilar, is transitioned to another originator or biosimilar to regain maximum disease control

"Policy transition" occurs when a public or private drug plan's reimbursement policy change necessitate patients to move from their originator to its biosimilar, usually because it is significantly less expensive

Transitioning is safe and effective

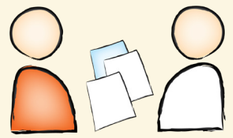
According to Health Canada: "Patients and health care providers can have confidence that biosimilars are effective and safe for each of their authorized indications. No differences are expected in efficacy and safety following a change in routine use between a biosimilar and its reference biologic drug in an authorized indication."[3]

More than 170 research studies exist on patients with inflammatory arthritis, gastrointestinal and skin disease who have successfully policy transitioned from a TNF inhibitor originator to its TNF inhibitor biosimilar

After transitioning to a biosimilar, patients will obtain their medication in the same or similar way as their previous biologic

Patients, in partnership with their rheumatologists, will monitor the safety and effectiveness of their biosimilars as part of routine care

Credible fact-based information on biosimilar biologics



The decision to start on a biologic (originator or biosimilar) is best made by a well-informed patient and their rheumatologist based on credible scientific evidence and in consideration of the safety, benefits and risks, patient treatment goals and preferences, accessibility of treatment and affordability

Patients can find more biosimilars information from a number of credible sources: Rheumatologists, rheumatology nurses and pharmacies, as well as their public or private drug plan and patient support programs

1 Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH): Biosimilar Drugs: Your Questions Answered
https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/biosimilar_drugs_patient_en.pdf

2 Patented Medicine Prices Review Board – Biologics in Canada
https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pmprb-cepmb/documents/reports-and-studies/chartbooks/biologics-part1-market-trends.pdf

3 Health Canada Fact Sheet on Biosimilars: Switching
https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/migration/hc-sc/dhp-mps/alt_formats/pdf/brgtherap/applic-demande/guides/Fact-Sheet-EN-2019-08-23.pdf