

Biosimilars

Understanding the Savings, Safety, and Growth of Biosimilar Medications

Biosimilars are transforming pharmacy benefit strategies by offering safe, effective alternatives to costly biologic drugs – at a significantly lower price. As more biosimilars enter the market, MedBen Rx clients are seeing real opportunities to **reduce prescription drug spend without compromising care.**

What are biologics – and what makes a biosimilar different?

Biologics are advanced medications made from living cells, used to treat complex diseases like cancer, autoimmune conditions, and diabetes.

A **biosimilar** is a highly similar version of a biologic. It has no meaningful clinical differences in terms of safety, potency, or how it works in the body – but typically comes at a significantly lower cost.

How are biosimilars different from generic drugs?

Generics are identical chemical copies of traditional drugs. Biosimilars, on the other hand, are “near copies” of biologics because biologics themselves are large, complex molecules made from living organisms.

While not exact replicas, biosimilars must meet strict standards to ensure they are just as safe and effective as the original biologic.

What are the potential savings with biosimilars?

Adding biosimilars to your pharmacy plan can reduce spending **by as much as 95% per drug**. Employers that include biosimilars in their formulary strategies may reduce their total drug spend by thousands, or even millions, of dollars.



Are biosimilars safe and effective?

Yes. Biosimilars undergo rigorous testing to prove they are just as safe and effective as the original biologic. They must demonstrate no clinically meaningful differences in safety, purity, or effectiveness.

Do biosimilars require FDA approval?

Yes. They must meet strict regulatory standards to demonstrate that they are highly similar to their reference biologic, with no meaningful differences. The approval process includes detailed testing and, in some cases, clinical studies to ensure they meet the same high standards as the original drug.

Are biosimilars gaining momentum in the market?

Yes. As of early 2026, over 80 biosimilars have been approved in the U.S., with more than 100 in the pipeline targeting high-cost drugs in areas like oncology and autoimmune therapy.

Why should I consider adding biosimilars to my pharmacy plan?

As more high-cost biologics lose patent protection, biosimilars will become central to pharmacy cost containment. With growing clinical confidence and increasing availability, they offer a low-disruption, high-value way to reduce spend while maintaining strong member outcomes.

MedBen Rx offers **direct-to-consumer pricing** on popular biosimilars... and as more enter the market, we will continue to make them available to clients at the lowest possible cost.

If you're a MedBen Rx client and you haven't opted into our biosimilar programs, just contact your Account Management team. Or if you're not a client and want to learn more, contact your broker or call 888-627-8683.

