

BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES

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Biosimilar medicine facts

Did you know?



Biological medicines are medicines made by living cells or organisms. They are usually made of proteins that are naturally produced in the human body.¹



Biological medicines treat illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, severe psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis and kidney disease. They have helped **improve life for thousands of Australians.**



A **biosimilar medicine** is a highly similar version of an original brand of a biological medicine, marketed by a different manufacturer once the patent on the original brand expires.



Biosimilar brands of biological medicines are **thoroughly tested to show that they are just as safe and effective as the original** biological brands before they are approved by Australian regulators.³



Biosimilar medicines have been **available since 2006**, and are now used all over the world.⁴ The first biosimilar medicine was used in Australia in 2010.⁵



Australia has a strong regulatory system that ensures the safety, effectiveness and quality of all medicines, including biological medicines.⁶



Using biosimilar medicines has the potential for **substantial cost savings** for the Australian Government, which could be used to fund new medicines or healthcare initiatives.



It is up to you and your doctor to choose which biological medicine is right for you.

References: 1. Dörner T, *et al.* *Ann Rheum Dis* 2013; 72(3):322–8. 2. Aust Govt DoH: PBS. *A to Z of biological drugs and brands currently listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)*. Available at <http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/browse/biological-medicines-currently-listed-on-the-pbs>. Accessed April 2019. 3. Aust Gov't DoH. TGA. *Biosimilar medicines regulation. v2.2 April 2018*. Available at <https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/biosimilar-medicines-regulation.pdf>. Accessed April 2019. 4. Schiestl M, *et al.* *Drug Design, Dev Ther* 2017; 11: 1509–15. 5. Aust Govt DoH. *Which biosimilar medicines are available in Australia?* Available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/biosimilar-which-medicines-are-available-in-australia>. Accessed March 2019. 6. Aust Govt DoH: Therapeutic Goods Administration. *The role of the TGA*. Available at <https://www.tga.gov.au/role-tga-0>. Accessed April 2019.