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

Savings from biosimilars use can modernize “special access criteria,” removing the need for patients to fail on older therapies before approving reimbursement for biosimilars.

Savings from biosimilars use can be reinvested into public and private drug formulary budgets making it possible to add new medications coming into the market place.

Savings from biosimilars can be invested into non-medication elements of care that patients need, such as specialized nursing, counselling, physio- and occupational therapy.

A biologic “biosimilar” is highly similar to its biologic “originator.”

After an originator’s patent expires, other companies are allowed to produce their own biosimilar version of it.

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

Patients experience the same therapeutic benefits.

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“Medical transition” occurs when a patient, not doing well on their current biologic originator or biosimilar, is transitioned to another biologic 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 biologic originator to its biologic biosimilar, usually because it is significantly less expensive.

Transitioning is safe and effective.

More than 100 research studies exist on patients with inflammatory arthritis, gastrointestinal and skin disease who have successfully policy transitioned from a TNF inhibitor biologic originator to its TNF inhibitor biologic biosimilar.

Research on transitioning to a biosimilar from an originator shows no health differences between patients.

Transition should not affect how patients fill biologic prescriptions or receive patient support.

Patients will obtain their medication in the same or similar way as their previous biologic.

Biosimilars patient support program coordinator will help organize reimbursement and with other patient needs.

Rheumatologist and patient will monitor the safety and effectiveness of biosimilar as part of routine care.

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