

Manitoba Biosimilars Initiative Frequently Asked Questions – Prescribers

Which medications are affected by the Biosimilars Initiative?

- A list of products included in the Biosimilars Initiative and their associated transition period(s) can be found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/biosimilars.html>

What can I do to transition patients to a biosimilar?

- Review the list of products included in the Biosimilars Initiative and their associated transition period date(s), available here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/biosimilars.html>
- Review the letter that will be mailed to you by the department which identifies patients with current Exception Drug Status (EDS) coverage who are affected by the Biosimilars Initiative; patients will also be contacted directly by letter regarding the Biosimilars Initiative.
 - **Where applicable, patients with EDS approval for a reference biologic will have EDS coverage proactively added for biosimilars as of the transition period start date. You will not need to submit an EDS application for your patient to start using a biosimilar.**
- Work with your patient to discuss their questions or concerns about their treatment, including biosimilar drugs.
- Update the patient's biologic prescription with a chosen biosimilar.
- If applicable, support the patient's enrolment in the biosimilar patient support program.
 - Information on biosimilar PSPs is available here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/biosimilar-support-programs.pdf>

When do patients need to start using a biosimilar? Is there a transition period?

- Patients using a reference biologic drug on the list of drugs affected by the Biosimilars Initiative will need to start using a biosimilar version before the end of the transition period in order to maintain their drug plan coverage.
 - A list of products included in the Biosimilars Initiative and their associated transition period(s) can be found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/biosimilars.html>
- During the transition period, both the reference biologic and biosimilar(s) will be covered.
- After the end of the transition period, the reference biologic drug will no longer be covered under Pharmacare and other provincial drug plans.

What supports are available to prescribers?

- A Manitoba Biosimilars Initiative Guide for Prescribers is available here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/prescriber-guide.pdf>
- For general questions about the Manitoba Biosimilars Initiative, prescribers can contact: NIBOperations@gov.mb.ca