

# Biosimilar Basics

Biosimilars are a type of biologic medication that is **safe and effective** for treating many illnesses, such as chronic skin and bowel diseases, arthritis, diabetes, kidney conditions, and some cancers.



Most biologic medications are made from living sources (such as animal cells), **developed using advanced science**, and given via injection.

Biosimilars are **FDA-approved** medications that are very similar, but not identical, to another medication — the original biologic.



## Biosimilar & Original Biologic

- ✓ Same benefits
- ✓ Same potential side effects
- ✓ Same strength and dosage
- ✓ Given the same way

A biosimilar and its original biologic are made from the same types of sources — and **provide the same treatment risks and benefits.**

Biosimilars can be made by multiple companies — similar to generics. Biosimilars are like generics in some ways but different in others.



## Biosimilars

Made from living sources

Require a specialized process to produce

Very similar, but not identical, to original biologics

Less expensive than original biologics



## Generics

Made from chemicals

Have a simpler process to copy

Copy of brand name drugs

Less expensive than brand name drugs

Biosimilars can provide patients with **more access** to important treatments and an opportunity to **save money.**

More options



Lower costs



Biosimilars are approved by FDA after a **careful review** of data, studies, and tests.



FDA monitors the **safety** and **effectiveness** of all medications after their approval.

Check for medication quality during production



Review patient safety reports



To learn more, visit [www.FDA.gov/biosimilars](http://www.FDA.gov/biosimilars)