

Biosimilar drugs

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW IS PREMIERA BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ALASKA SUPPORTING THEM?

There has been a lot of buzz around the topic of biosimilars, but what are they and if your provider prescribes one, should you agree to it?

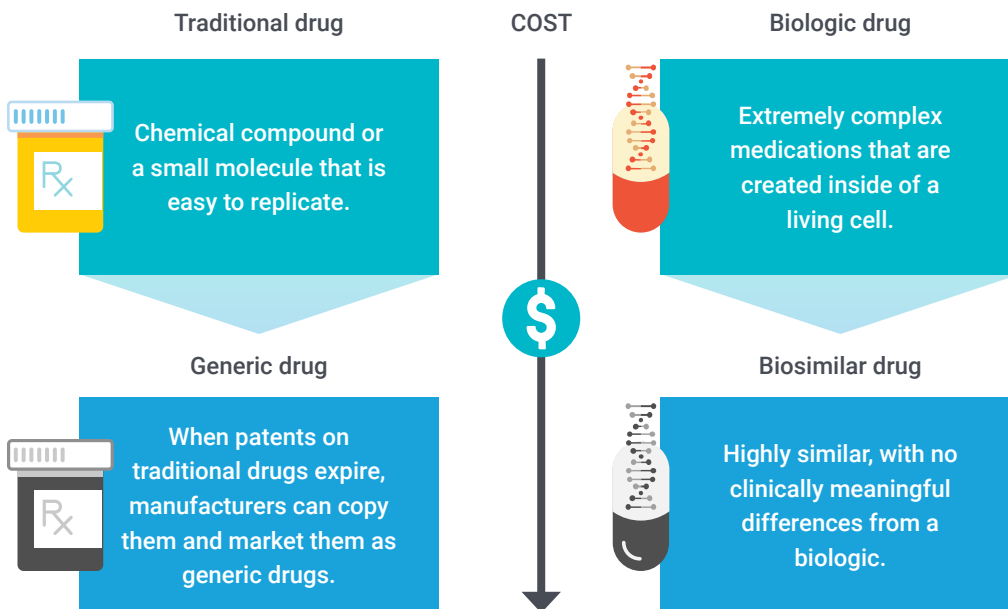
What do they treat?

Biologic drugs and biosimilars are used to treat cancer, inflammatory conditions, diabetes, and other conditions.

What's the difference?

In short, a biosimilar is like a generic drug but for a biologic.

A biologic is the brand name drug (like Humira) and the biosimilar is similar to the generic version. There are no meaningful differences between the two.



Biosimilars are highly similar versions of biologic drugs.

A biologic drug is created out of a living cell, so it's complicated to make. A biosimilar is a copy of a biologic. Creating this copy is a complex process, which is why it's highly similar to the original biologic, but not exactly the same.

Creating a biologic is like making bread.

You can follow the directions exactly, but each batch will be different because bread is made with a living ingredient—yeast! Just like making bread from yeast, every loaf will be safe to eat and delicious, but it will not be identical to the original loaf of bread. In the same way, if you try to copy a biologic, the resulting biosimilar version will be highly similar with no clinically meaningful differences in how safe and effective it is, but it won't be identical.

Are they safe?

Yes! The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires biosimilars to meet rigorous standards so you can trust their safety and quality.

What does this mean to you? Cost savings.

Biologics are some of the most expensive medications in the U.S., with some costing tens of thousands of dollars every year.

An increasing number of manufacturers are starting to create biosimilar versions of biologic drugs so we will start seeing more of them on the market. This competition will mean cost savings to you.

If your provider prescribes a biosimilar, don't be afraid to use it.

The packaging may look different than the brand name, but it's a safe and effective alternative.

Watch a short video where we address key questions about biosimilar medications and what they can do for you.

Visit premera.com/video/biosimilars/ak or scan the QR code to watch the video.



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Language Assistance

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711) 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 800-508-4722 (телетайп: 711).

注意: 如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711)。

MO LOU SILAFIA: Afai e te tautala Gagana fa'a Sāmoa, o loo iai auaunaga fesoasoan, e fai fua e leai se togoti, mo oe, Telefoni mai: 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

注意事項: 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。800-508-4722 (TTY:711) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

PAKDAAR: Nu saritaem ti Ilocano, ti serbisyo para ti baddang ti lengguahe nga awanan bayadna, ket sidadaan para kenyam. Awagan ti 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

УВАГА! Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, ви можете звернутися до безкоштовної служби мовної підтримки.

Телефонуйте за номером 800-508-4722 (телетайп: 711).

เรียน: ถ้าคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถใช้บริการช่วยเหลือทางภาษาได้ฟรี โทร 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 800-508-4722 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 711).

ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 800-508-4722 (ATS: 711).

ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

ATTENZIONE: In caso la lingua parlata sia l'italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Chiamare il numero 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

توجه: اگر به زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می باشد. با 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711) تماس بگیرید.