



# Biosimilars: Frequently asked questions

## What is a biosimilar?

A biosimilar is a biologically engineered medication that is highly similar to and has no clinically meaningful differences from an existing U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved innovator.

## What is an innovator?

An innovator is the brand biologic medication that was first-to-market for a unique compound. Examples: Neulasta<sup>®</sup>, Remicade<sup>®</sup>

## Is a biosimilar like a generic?

A generic and a biosimilar are both alternative versions of an innovator medication, but a biosimilar is not considered a generic. Generics are created from synthesized chemicals while biosimilars are biological products created from a living system, such as a microorganism, plant cell or animal cell and is often more difficult to characterize than small molecule medications.<sup>1</sup>

Biosimilars and generics are approved by the FDA through different pathways. The active ingredients of generics are the same as those of brand name medications and the manufacturer of generic product must demonstrate that it has the same clinical effectiveness and absorption levels. In contrast, manufacturers must demonstrate that a biosimilar is highly similar to the innovator, except for minor difference in clinically inactive components. In addition, biosimilar manufacturers must demonstrate that there are no clinically meaningful differences between biosimilar and innovator in terms of safety and effectiveness.<sup>1</sup>

## How many biosimilars are FDA approved?

More than 40 biosimilars have been approved by the FDA, but some are still not commercially available.<sup>2</sup>

## Biosimilars in the marketplace:

- Biosimilar for Epogen®/Procrit® = Retacrit®
- Biosimilar for Neulasta® = Fulphila™, Fylnetra®, Nyvepria™, Stimufend®, Udenyca™, Ziextenzo™
- Biosimilar for Neupogen® = Nivestym™, Releuko®, Zarxio®
- Biosimilar for Remicade®\* = Avsola™, Inflectra®, Renflexis™
- Biosimilar for Avastin® = Alymsys®, Mvasi™, Vegzelma®, Zirabev™
- Biosimilar for Herceptin® = Herzuma®, Kanjinti®, Ogivri™, Ontruzant®, Trazimera™
- Biosimilar for Rituxan® = Riabni™, Ruxience™, Truxima®
- Biosimilar for Lantus® = Rezvoglar™, Semglee®
- Biosimilar for Lucentis® = Byooviz®, Cimerli™
- Biosimilar for Humira® = Amjevita™, Cyltezo®, Hadlima™, Hyrimoz®, Hulio®, Idacio®, Yuflyma®, Yusimry™

\*Includes infliximab (unbranded product)

## Biosimilars approved by the FDA, but not yet launched:

- Biosimilar for Enbrel® = Erelzi™, Eticovo™
- Biosimilar for Humira® = Abrilada™
- Biosimilar for Remicade® = Ixifi™

## What management strategies are in place for available biosimilars?

Biosimilars create a more competitive pricing environment among drug manufacturers that can help drive down medication costs. UnitedHealthcare evaluates each brand name biologic and its biosimilar one-by-one and makes strategic decisions based on various factors, including lower net cost.

## UnitedHealthcare commercial plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Filgrastim	Cancer support	Granix Neupogen	Nivestym Releuko Zarxio	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Zarxio</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Pegfilgrastim	Cancer support	Neulasta	Fulphila Fylnetra Nyvepria Stimufend Udenyca Ziextenzo	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Neulasta</b> <b>Ziextenzo</b> Preferred products for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Infliximab	Inflammatory conditions	Remicade**	Avsola Inflectra Renflexis	Physician administered	<b>Avsola</b> <b>Inflectra</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Epoetin alfa	Anemia	Epogen Procrit	Retacrit	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Retacrit</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits

## UnitedHealthcare commercial plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Bevacizumab	Cancer	Avastin	Alymsys Mvasi Zirabev	Physician administered	<b>Mvasi</b> Preferred product for the medical benefit
Trastuzumab	Cancer	Herceptin	Herzuma Kanjinti Ogivri Ontruzant Trazimera	Physician administered	<b>Kanjinti</b> <b>Trazimera</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Rituximab	Cancer	Rituxan	Riabni Ruxience Truxima	Physician administered	<b>Ruxience</b> <b>Truxima</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Insulin glargine	Diabetes	Lantus	Semglee Rezvoglar	Self-injected	<b>Lantus</b> Preferred product for the pharmacy benefit
Ranibizumab	Retinal disorders	Lucentis	Byooviz <sup>1</sup> Cimerli <sup>1</sup>	Physician administered	Preferred product strategy under review
Adalimumab	Inflammatory conditions	Humira	Amjevita Cyltezo Hadlima Hyrimoz Hulio Idacio Yuflyma Yusimry	Self-injected	<b>Humira</b> <b>Amjevita</b> <b>Cyltezo</b> <b>Hadlima</b> <b>adalimumab-adaz</b> (unbranded Hyrimoz, low WAC product) Covered products for the pharmacy benefit

\*UnitedHealthcare uses utilization management strategies (e.g. prior authorization or exclusions) to prefer products.

\*\*Includes infliximab (unbranded product)

<sup>1</sup>Drug is on UnitedHealthcare Review at Launch list and evaluation is ongoing

## UnitedHealthcare community plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Filgrastim	Cancer support	Granix Neupogen	Nivestym Releuko Zarxio	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Zarxio</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Pegfilgrastim	Cancer support	Neulasta	Fulphila Fylnetra Nyvepria Stimufend Udenyca Ziextenzo	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Neulasta</b> <b>Ziextenzo</b> Preferred products for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Infliximab	Inflammatory conditions	Remicade**	Avsola Inflectra Renflexis	Physician administered	<b>Avsola</b> <b>Inflectra</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Epoetin alfa	Anemia	Epogen Procrit	Retacrit	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Retacrit</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Bevacizumab	Cancer	Avastin	Alymsys Mvasi Zirabev	Physician administered	<b>Mvasi</b> Preferred product for the medical benefit
Trastuzumab	Cancer	Herceptin	Herzuma Kanjinti Ogivri Ontruzant Trazimera	Physician administered	<b>Kanjinti</b> Preferred product for the medical benefit
Rituximab	Cancer	Rituxan	Riabni Ruxience Truxima	Physician administered	<b>Ruxience</b> <b>Truxima</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Insulin glargine	Diabetes	Basaglar Lantus	Rezvoglar Semglee insulin glargine-yfgn	Self-injected	<b>Basaglar</b> <b>insulin glargine-yfgn</b> <b>Rezvoglar</b> Preferred products for the pharmacy benefit
Ranibizumab	Retinal disorders	Lucentis	Byooviz <sup>1</sup> Cimerli <sup>1</sup>	Physician administered	No preferred biosimilar products in this category

## UnitedHealthcare community plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Adalimumab	Inflammatory conditions	Humira	Amjevita Cyltezo Hadlima Hyrimoz Hulio Idacio Yuflyma Yusimry	Self-injected	<b>Amjevita</b> (low WAC) <b>Hadlima</b> Preferred products for the pharmacy benefit

\*UnitedHealthcare Community Plan uses utilization management strategies (e.g. prior authorization) to prefer products. Different preferred products may exist in some markets due to state Medicaid requirements.

\*\*Includes infliximab (unbranded product)

<sup>1</sup>Drug is on UnitedHealthcare Review at Launch list and evaluation is ongoing

## UnitedHealthcare Medicare plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Filgrastim	Cancer support	Granix Neupogen	Nivestym Releuko Zarxio	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Zarxio</b> Preferred product  <b>Part D:</b> <b>Zarxio</b> Preferred product
Pegfilgrastim	Cancer support	Neulasta	Fulphila Fylnetra Nyvepria Stimufend Udenyca Ziextenzo	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Neulasta</b> <b>Ziextenzo</b> Preferred products  <b>Part D:</b> <b>Neulasta</b> <b>Ziextenzo</b> Preferred products
Infliximab	Inflammatory conditions	Remicade**	Avsola Inflectra Renflexis	Physician administered	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Avsola</b> <b>Inflectra</b> Preferred products  <b>Part D:</b> <b>Avsola</b> <b>Inflectra</b> Preferred products
Epoetin alfa	Anemia	Procrit	Retacrit	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Retacrit</b> Preferred product  <b>Part D:</b> <b>Retacrit</b> Preferred products
Bevacizumab	Cancer	Avastin	Alymsys Mvasi Zirabev	Physician administered	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Mvasi</b> <b>Zirabev</b> Preferred products  <b>Part D:</b> <b>Mvasi</b> <b>Zirabev</b> Preferred products

## UnitedHealthcare Medicare plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Trastuzumab	Cancer	Herceptin	Herzuma Kanjinti Ogivri Ontruzant Trazimera	Physician administered	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Kanjinti</b> <b>Trazimera</b> Preferred products <b>Part D:</b> <b>Kanjinti</b> <b>Trazimera</b> Preferred products
Rituximab	Cancer	Rituxan	Riabni Ruxience Truxima	Physician administered	<b>Part B:</b> <b>Ruxience</b> <b>Truxima</b> Preferred products <b>Part D:</b> <b>Ruxience</b> <b>Truxima</b> Preferred products
Insulin glargine	Diabetes	Lantus	Semglee Rezvoglar	Self-injected	<b>Part D:</b> <b>Lantus</b> Preferred product
Ranibizumab	Retinal disorders	Lucentis	Byooviz <sup>1</sup> Cimerli <sup>1</sup>	Physician administered	No preferred biosimilar products in this category
Adalimumab	Inflammatory conditions	Humira	Amjevita Cyltezo Hadlima Hyrimoz Hulio Idacio Yuflyma Yusimry	Self-injected	<b>Part D:</b> <b>Humira</b> <b>Cyltezo</b> <b>Yuflyma</b> Preferred products

\*UnitedHealthcare uses utilization management strategies (e.g. prior authorization or step therapy) to prefer products. Part D information is applicable to MAPD plans only.

\*\*Includes infliximab (unbranded product)

<sup>1</sup>Drug is on UnitedHealthcare Review at Launch list and evaluation is ongoing

## UnitedHealthcare individual and family plans

Medication	Category	Innovator brand(s)	Biosimilar brand(s)	Administration method	Preferred product*
Filgrastim	Cancer support	Granix Neupogen	Nivestym Releuko Zarxio	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Zarxio</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Pegfilgrastim	Cancer support	Neulasta	Fulphila Fylnetra Nyvepria Stimufend Udenyca Ziextenzo	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Neulasta</b> <b>Ziextenzo</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Infliximab	Inflammatory conditions	Remicade**	Avsola Inflectra Renflexis	Physician administered	<b>Avsola</b> <b>Inflectra</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Epoetin alfa	Anemia	Epogen Procrit	Retacrit	Physician administered or self-injected	<b>Retacrit</b> Preferred product for both the pharmacy and medical benefits
Bevacizumab	Cancer	Avastin	Almsys Mvasi Zirabev	Physician administered	<b>Mvasi</b> Preferred product for the medical benefit
Trastuzumab	Cancer	Herceptin	Herzuma Kanjinti Ogivri Ontruzant Trazimera	Physician administered	<b>Kanjinti</b> <b>Trazimera</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Rituximab	Cancer	Rituxan	Riabni Ruxience Truxima	Physician administered	<b>Ruxience</b> <b>Truxima</b> Preferred products for the medical benefit
Insulin glargine	Diabetes	Lantus	Semglee Rezvoglar	Self-injected	No preferred products in this category
Ranibizumab	Retinal disorders	Lucentis	Byooviz <sup>1</sup> Cimerli <sup>1</sup>	Physician administered	No preferred biosimilar products in this category
Adalimumab	Inflammatory conditions	Humira	Amjevita Cyltezo Hadlima Hyrimoz Hulio Idacio Yuflyma Yusimry	Self-injected	<b>Humira</b> <b>Amjevita</b> <b>Cyltezo</b> <b>Hadlima</b> <b>adalimumab-adaz</b> (unbranded Hyrimoz, low WAC product)  Covered products for the pharmacy benefit

\*UnitedHealthcare uses utilization management strategies (e.g. prior authorization or step therapy) to prefer products.

\*\*Includes infliximab (unbranded product)

<sup>1</sup>Drug is on UnitedHealthcare Review at Launch list and evaluation is ongoing



**Learn more**

Contact your UnitedHealthcare representative for additional information

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/therapeutic-biologics-applications-bla/biosimilars>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.centerforbiosimilars.com/biosimilar-approvals>

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