The Patient Perspective on Biosimilars

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Why Does This Matter for People With Arthritis?

• Many people with arthritis rely on biologic medications to stay healthy

• 7 biosimilars have been approved for arthritis, and 2 are currently on the market

• Out-of-pocket costs always rank high on our surveys of top health care challenges

• Biosimilars hold promise for reducing costs, thereby increasing access
What do Arthritis Patients Think About Biosimilars?

From a 2017 survey:

• Less than half are familiar with biosimilars, and 27% had never heard the term

• There is confusion about the difference between a biologic and a biosimilar

• A little over half of respondents would be confident using a biosimilar knowing they have been approved by the FDA

• They care deeply about the provider-patient relationship and want decisions about switching to be made at the provider-level

Why Would an Arthritis Patient NOT Take a Biosimilar?

Based on our surveys and focus groups:

• They don’t know about them

• Their doctor has not talked about biosimilars as a treatment option

• They fear they will not work as well and have concerns about interchangeability

• They may not have easy access through their formulary OR the out-of-pocket cost is not significantly lower
Where do Patients Turn for Information on Biosimilars?

- Their health care provider (this is both the most popular and the preferred source for information)
- The FDA is another trusted source
- Many arthritis patients learn about biosimilars from the internet (46% in our 2017 survey)

What Are We Doing With These Insights?

- Enhancing our patient education to “normalize” the term biosimilars in our materials and activities
- Working with provider groups on patient education
- Working with the FDA on their patient education materials
- Working with a broad group of stakeholders to address barriers to biosimilars uptake
- Continuing to survey and focus group our patients
basics of biosimilars

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