

FAST FACTS FOR PATIENTS

"Name in a Frame" – Understanding Biosimilars & Your Health

• What is a Biosimilar?

- A biosimilar is a medication that is **highly similar** to another already-approved treatment, made to treat the **same condition** in the **same way**.
- It is **not a generic**, but it is approved by the FDA as safe and effective.
- It works **just like** the original treatment, often at a **lower cost**.

• Why Do Names Matter?

- Medications often have **scientific names** (like "adalimumab") and **brand names** (which are created by the manufacturer).
- Different manufacturers may create different brands of the same biosimilar medication. These are **not name changes**—they are simply **different brand versions** of the same medicine.
- For example, just like you can buy bottled water from different companies, biosimilar medications may come under different brand names—but the core treatment remains the same.
- What's important is what the medication **does**, not which company made it.

• Biosimilars Can Mean Better Access

- Biosimilars are part of efforts to make expensive treatments more **affordable** and more **available**.
- Insurance companies often cover biosimilars because they **cost less** while working just as well.
- This means more people can get the treatment they need—**without delays or denials**.

• It's About What the Medication Does, Not What It's Called

- Imagine needing a good pair of sneakers to support your feet. You don't need a specific brand—you need something that works.
- It's the same with medications. The goal is to treat your condition safely and effectively, no matter what the name on the bottle says.

• You Deserve Confidence in Your Care

- If you're unsure about a medication switch or name change, **ask questions**.
- Your provider should help you understand **what the medication does, why it's used**, and how it supports your health.
- The more you know, the more empowered you'll be to take control of your care.



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