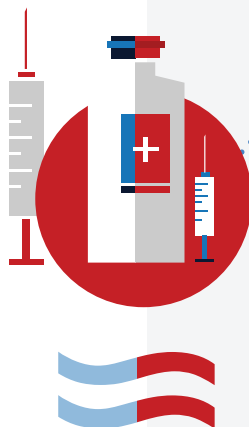


# The Value of Biosimilars

## Safety and Effectiveness of Biosimilars

Biosimilars are biologic medicines proven to be highly similar to a specific reference biologic medicine already available in Canada. **They treat many life-impacting diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, plaque psoriasis, Crohn's disease, colitis, diabetes and cancer.**

Biosimilars have been available in Canada since 2009 and they can only be sold after the reference biologic medicine has lost market exclusivity. In Europe, biosimilars have been used for over a decade, generating over 700 million patient days of clinical experience.



Health Canada states that **"the biosimilar and the reference biologic drug are similar and that there are no clinically meaningful differences in safety and efficacy between them"**

And that **"patients and health care providers can have the same confidence in the quality, safety and efficacy of a biosimilar as any other biologic drug"**

*Health Canada. Fact Sheet: Biosimilars. 03 Aug. 2017.*



## Biosimilars Can Help to Expand Care

In Canada, biosimilars have the potential to save Billions of dollars in health care spending. These savings could be reinvested so that more patients can access more medicines. Many public drug plans now provide biosimilar coverage for patients that previously did not have access to the reference biologic.

## Switching to a Biosimilar

Across Europe, 13 countries already support policies to switch patients from a reference biologic medicine to its biosimilar. Health Canada considers a well-controlled switch from a reference biologic to its biosimilar in an approved indication to be acceptable and recommends that a decision to switch be made by a treating physician in consultation with the patient, taking into account any policies of the jurisdiction.

