Generics and Biosimilars Sorting Out Fact From Fiction





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A Glossary for Today

- **Pharmaceutical drug** created through chemical synthesis in an ordered process; has a known structure
- **Biologic** large, complex molecule(s) manufactured in a living system (microorganism or plant or animal cells)
- Generic A follow-on medication to a brand medication that contains the same active ingredient as brand medication
- **Biosimilar** A follow-on medication to a biologic medication that is highly similar in purity, molecular structure, and bioactivity to a reference product, with no clinically meaningful differences in safety, purity, or effectiveness
- **Reference drug** a biologic product that has been approved by the FDA and is used to compare a proposed biosimilar.

Generics vs. Biosimilars

A Generic Pharmaceutical Drug:

- Contains the same active-ingredient formula as a drug that was originally protected by chemical patents.
- Can be sold after the original patents expire.
- FDA considers them to be as safe and effective as the patented product
- May differ in other ways (manufacturing process, other substances included with the active ingredient)
- Usually less expensive than the branded drug

A Biosimilar:

- A biologic medicine is made in a living system (yeast, bacteria, animal cells).
- A biosimilar is close enough in structure and function to the brand name biologic medicine to accomplish the same therapeutic and clinical results
- Because a biosimilar is made from living organisms and isn't identical to its brand name counterpart, it requires extensive testing, which makes it more expensive than a generic

Generics vs. Biosimilars



Biosimilars

Generally made from living sources

Require a specialized process to produce

Nearly identical to original biologics

Faster development process

Usually less expensive than original biologics

Generics

Generally made from chemicals

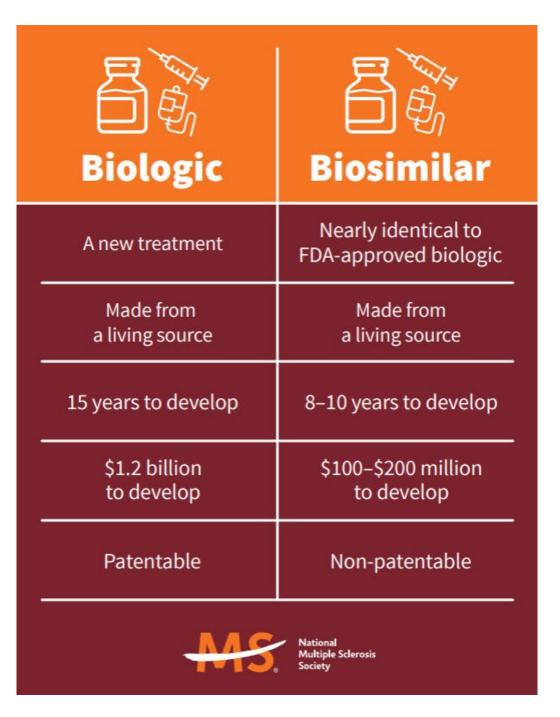
Have a simpler process to copy

Copy of brand-name drugs

Faster development process

Usually less expensive than brand-name drugs

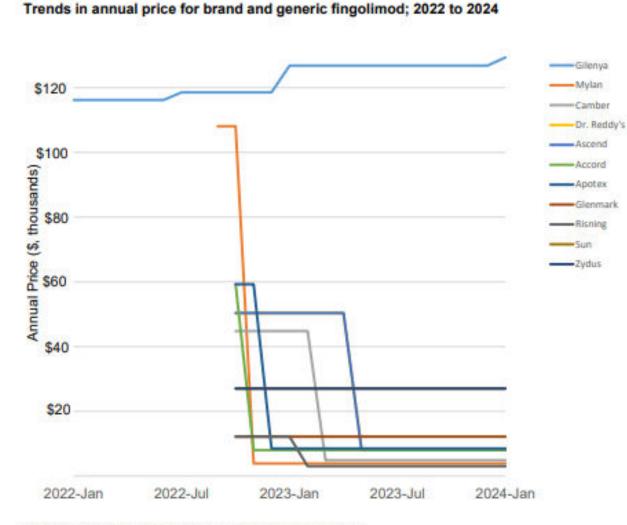




Currently Available Generic and Biosimilar MS DMT Medications

Generics	Biosimilars
Copaxone® • glatiramer acetate • Glatopa® • Gilenya® • fingolimod • Tecfidera® • dimethyl fumarate • Aubagio® • teriflunomide	Tysabri® • Tyruko®

Price Differences Between Brand and Generics



Manufacturer Annual Acquisition Cost \$129,349 Originator \$8,030 Accord \$8,517 Apotex \$2,679 Ascend Camber \$4,867 \$8,030 Dr. Reddy's \$12,167 Glenmark \$3,893 Mylan \$3,042 Risning \$27,022 Sun \$27.022 Zydus

Notes: Annual price estimated from wholesale acquisition costs (First Databank) Updated 2.19.2024 (Data through January 2024)



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