



## **DOSE OF REALITY: BIOSIMILAR COMPETITION GENERATES SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS FOR PATIENTS AND THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

*Reports Find Biosimilars Have Lower Prices Than Brand Name Biologics, Results in Lower OOP Costs for Patients and Produce Billions of Dollars in Savings*

Big Pharma deploys a full suite of [tactics](#) designed to game the U.S. patent system — enabling brand name drug companies to extend monopolies over their biggest money-makers. The pharmaceutical industry's egregious abuse of the patent system is a root cause of high prescription drug prices because it enables Big Pharma to repeatedly hike prices on existing drugs, set out-of-control launch prices on new medications, and [block competition from more affordable alternatives](#), like generics and biosimilars.

While generics and biosimilars are both alternatives to high-priced brand name drugs, biosimilars are alternatives for more complex biologic drugs and are not exact copies of branded drugs, like generics. As more biologics enter the prescription drug market, greater biosimilar competition is especially critical to bringing down costs for patients, taxpayers and the U.S. health care system.

Learn more on how biosimilar competition reduces prescription drug costs and generates savings:

### **OUT OF POCKET COSTS FOR BIOSIMILARS 23 PERCENT LOWER THAN REFERENCE BIOLOGICS**

A March 2024 [study](#) published in JAMA Network compared out-of-pocket spending between seven biologics and their biosimilar alternatives. The study found that in the commercial market, average patient out-of-pocket costs for the biosimilars were 23 percent lower compared to their reference biologic, or around \$200 less, on average. According to the study, “the mean [out-of-pocket] costs were lower for biosimilars (\$707) than reference biologics (\$911).”

### **BIOSIMILAR LIST PRICES ARE 15 TO 35 PERCENT LOWER THAN BRANDED BIOLOGICS**

According to a July 2021 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [press release](#) announcing approval of the first interchangeable biosimilar insulin product for diabetes, biosimilar drugs launched in the U.S. typically have “initial list prices 15% to 35% lower than comparative list prices of the reference products.”

### **BIOLOGIC PATENT ABUSE TO COST AMERICANS ADDITIONAL \$25 BILLION BY END OF DECADE**

A September 2020 [study](#) by researchers at the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP) found Big Pharma's anti-competitive practices in the U.S. biologic market has cost patients \$5 billion in lost savings, and will cost U.S. patients an additional \$25 billion by 2029 without reform.

### **PROJECTED SAVINGS OF GREATER BIOSIMILAR COMPETITION BETWEEN 2021 AND 2025: \$38.4 BILLION**

A July 2022 [paper](#) in the American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC) found that estimated savings from increased biosimilar competition and uptake could result in savings of \$38.4 billion for the U.S. health care system from 2021 to 2025. According to the paper's [authors](#), most of the expected savings will be driven, “by downward pressure on the brand-name biologics they compete with.”

### **GENERIC AND BIOSIMILAR SAVINGS IN 2023: \$445 BILLION**

A September 2024 [report](#) from The Association for Accessible Medicines (AAM) found that generics and biosimilars together led to savings of \$445 billion for patients and the U.S. healthcare system in 2023 – a nine percent year-over-year



## the campaign for **SUSTAINABLE Rx PRICING**

increase. The report also notes biosimilars and generics created \$3.1 trillion in savings over the last decade. A September 2023 [report](#) from AAM found that generics and biosimilars together led to savings of \$408 billion in the U.S. health care market in 2022.

### **GENERICS AND BIOSIMILARS MAKE UP 90 PERCENT OF ALL PRESCRIPTIONS BUT LESS THAN 18 PERCENT OF SPENDING**

The same September 2023 [report](#) from AAM found that despite making up more than 90 percent of all prescriptions in the U.S. market, generic and biosimilar drugs accounted for less than 18 percent of spending on all prescriptions.

### **AMERICAN VOTERS BROADLY SUPPORT IMPROVING COMPETITION AND ACCESS TO BIOSIMILARS**

A February 2025 national [poll](#) of U.S. voters, conducted By Fabrizio Ward on behalf of the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing (CSRxP), found 82 percent of voters support “reform[ing] patent laws to prevent drug companies from abusing the system that extends their monopolies longer than intended and halts lower cost generic drugs and biosimilars from the market.”

### **LAWMAKERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INDICATE INCREASING BIOSIMILAR COMPETITION IS A PRIORITY**

During a March 2025 U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) confirmation [hearing](#) for Dr. Martin Makary’s nomination to serve as Commissioner of the FDA, Dr. Makary and members of the Committee stated their support for increasing biosimilar competition.

- **Dr. Martin Makary:** “I would love to work with Congress to address the way that patent law has enabled patent thickening, which makes it more difficult for biosimilars and even some generics to come to market because they got to navigate so many lawsuits and letter of the patent law.”
- **U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME):** “One of the best ways to lower the cost of prescription drugs is by promoting more market competition. And one way that we can do this is by making it easier for generic and biosimilar drugs to come to the market.”
- **Dr. Martin Makary:** “I am a big believer that we need to figure out a way to get biosimilars approved quicker without cutting corners on the scientific review, and it is one of several strategies that the FDA can do to try to alleviate the problems of high drug prices.”

Read more on how Big Pharma blocks competition from generics and biosimilars utilizing patent abuse [HERE](#).

Read more on bipartisan, market-based solutions to hold Big Pharma accountable [HERE](#).

**About CSRxP:** The [Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing](#) is a broad-based coalition of physicians, nurses, hospitals, consumers, health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists and businesses promoting bipartisan, market-based solutions to lower drug prices. Learn more: [www.csrxp.org](http://www.csrxp.org)

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