

# BIOSIMILARS

— A Podcast Series —



The New Era of Management in  
Gastroenterology and Rheumatology

## Managed Care & Biosimilars

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Learning Objective	Podcast Discussion Summary
<b>Discuss Managed Care Implications for Biosimilars</b>	One of the primary managed care implications of biosimilars reaching the market is the potential for cost savings. Managed care organizations are responsible for selecting drugs to be included in their formularies, which are lists of medications covered by insurance plans. The introduction of biosimilars may lead to changes in utilization management strategies. Payers may implement step therapy, prior authorization, or dose optimization programs to encourage the use of biosimilars. Patient education will also be crucial.
<b>Identify Benefits of Biosimilars in Managed Care</b>	One of the most significant benefits of biosimilars in managed care is their potential to reduce healthcare costs significantly. Then there are lots of downstream benefits such as increased access to biologic therapies, increased treatment adherence, and health system sustainability and allocation of funds to other needed areas.
<b>Formulate Strategies Managed Care Professionals Can Use to Increase Biosimilar Uptake in Clinical Practice</b>	Create discrete guidance for providers in specialties where biosimilars may be used such as rheumatology and gastroenterology. These guidance documents or virtual pathways should be evidence-based, multidisciplinary care plans that outline the recommended treatment course for specific medical conditions. Ultimately, they should aim to improve the quality of care, enhance patient outcomes, and standardize care processes. In an ideal world, these guidance documents are produced by various healthcare specialists who review the latest evidence and make decisions accordingly. For these to work, education and training must be top notch, ensuring that healthcare providers are well informed about the pathways to promote adherence to the established protocols. Including biosimilars in the formulary alongside originator biologics can encourage providers to consider them viable treatment options. Utilization management programs may also be an option, so implementing strategies, such as step therapy or prior authorization, can encourage the use of biosimilars as a first-line treatment before considering more expensive options. Lastly, monitoring and reporting may be beneficial.