

# Awareness, Knowledge & Perceptions of Biosimilars among Specialty Physicians

Awareness of biosimilars is high, but there are **five major knowledge gaps** according to a survey of 1,201 U.S. specialty physicians, commissioned by the Biosimilars Forum and conducted by SERMO.

**FACT:** 4 biosimilars have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and more than 60 are in development.



More than **three-quarters (77%)** of physicians had **heard** the term biosimilars in the month prior to the survey, but there is a lack of understanding and comfort among the physicians surveyed when it comes to key concepts related to biosimilars.



Most physicians surveyed do not clearly understand the concept of extrapolation as applied to biosimilars with **only 12% of survey respondents** stating that they trust extrapolation of the studied biosimilar indication(s) as the basis to obtain approval of other licensed indications of the originator.



A little more than half of physicians surveyed know that in order to be approved the FDA must find a biosimilar to be **equally effective (62%) and safe (57%)** when compared to the originator biologic.



**A little more than half (nearly 60%) correctly understood** that to be approved as "interchangeable" a biosimilar must be shown to be safe and effective for back-and-forth switching with no negative impacts to safety or efficacy.

## KNOWLEDGE GAPS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE SURVEY



- Defining biosimilars & biosimilarity
- Understanding extrapolation
- Understanding the pathway
- Appreciating the similar safety of biosimilars and their reference products
- Understanding interchangeability

**FACT:** More than 20 biosimilars are already in use in the European Union\*, with more than 400 million patient days of experience with biosimilar medicines.\*\*



**Nine in ten (91%)** of those surveyed would consider switching a patient from an originator biologic to a biosimilar as an effective alternative to the originator if it would help the patient have better access to his/her medication, but 53% want more direct data before switching.



**Eight in ten (82%)** believe biosimilars will expand treatment options and provide savings to patients and the healthcare system.

## About the Survey

The 19-question survey was created by the Biosimilars Forum and conducted by SERMO, a global social network organization for physicians, from Nov. 20, 2015 to Jan. 4, 2016. Responses were obtained from a total of 1,201 U.S. physicians across specialties that are high prescribers of biologics, including dermatologists, gastroenterologists, hematologist-oncologists, medical oncologists, nephrologists and rheumatologists.

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[@USbiosimilars](http://biosimilarsforum.org)

\* <http://www.gabionline.net/Biosimilars/General/Biosimilars-approved-in-Europe>

\*\* IMS Health (2016, June 20). *The Impact of Biosimilar Competition*. Retrieved from: [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=8854](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8854)