Generic Drugs and Biosimilars Secure Big Savings for U.S. Patients

It’s a staggering statistic: Generic medicines fill nine out of every ten U.S. prescriptions. In 2019, generics saved America’s patients $313 billion—including $96.1 billion and $48.5 billion in Medicare and Medicaid savings, respectively. The last decade has seen nearly $2.2 trillion in savings.

Expanding the Promise of Biosimilars
Despite obstacles, U.S. biosimilars savings are growing steadily, totaling $2.2 billion in 2019 and $4.5 billion over the past 10 years. Biosimilars are projected to save America tens of billions of dollars over the next decade, but only if patients can access them.

Delivering During a Pandemic
The pharmaceutical supply chain has been stressed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but the generics and biosimilars industry has responded to unprecedented demand with strategies that ensured uninterrupted access to essential medicines for millions of patients.

Securing access to the safety, effectiveness and affordability of these generic medicines helps patients and their families maintain and improve health through the pandemic and beyond.

Source: IQVIA 2020.

4 Billion
Generic Prescriptions
Filled in 2019

92%
of Generic
Prescriptions
Are Filled at
$20 OR LESS

Average
Generic
Copay
$6.97

Average
Brand-Name
Copay
$56.32

$2.2 Billion
Biosimilars Savings in 2019

$48.7B
Medicaid Savings
$770 per participant

$96.1B
Medicare Savings
$1,053 per participant

$4.5 B
Biosimilars
10-Year Savings

90%
of prescriptions
filled in the U.S. are
dispensed as generics

Yet generics account for only
20%
of all drug spending