



Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

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# EVOLVING COMPARATIVE CLINICAL DATA EXPECTATIONS

**GrxBiosims: Streamlining Biosimilar Development Session**

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# Key Definitions from the BPCI Act



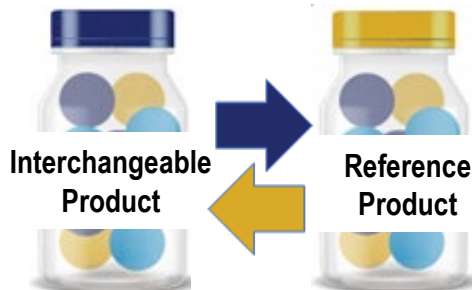
## Reference Product

A reference product is the single biological product, already approved by FDA, against which a proposed biosimilar product is compared



## Biosimilar Product

A biosimilar is a biological product that is **highly similar to and has no clinically meaningful differences from** an existing FDA-approved reference product



## Interchangeable Product

- Is a biosimilar
- Expected to produce the same clinical result as the reference product (RP) in any given patient
- Switching between the proposed product and the RP does not ↑ safety risks or ↓ effectiveness compared to using the RP without switching

# Expectations to Support Biosimilarity



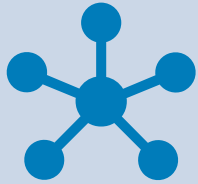
## **“Abbreviated”: 351(k) BLA**

Goal: To demonstrate biosimilarity (or interchangeability) to a reference product based on comparative assessments



- **Comparative clinical studies**
- Pharmacokinetic / pharmacodynamic comparisons
- Immunogenicity assessment

# Analogy: Steam Engines to Bullet Trains



**SERIES OF PARALLEL EFFORTS  
CONVERGE TO CATALYZE  
MAJOR SHIFT**



**THE LEAP FROM STEAM  
ENGINES TO BULLET TRAINS  
WAS AN EFFICIENCY BROUGHT  
ON BY SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES  
AND DEEPER EXPERIENCE**



**REACH THE DESTINATION  
FASTER, WITHOUT  
COMPROMISING STANDARDS**

# Reflecting on Experience with Comparative Efficacy Studies (CES)

- Multiple reviews of comparative clinical study data have shown that CES did not identify true or meaningful differences in efficacy, safety, PK, or immunogenicity between the proposed biosimilar and the reference product.
- Reflection papers also signaling flexibility



# Refining Expectations for Comparative Efficacy Studies (CES)

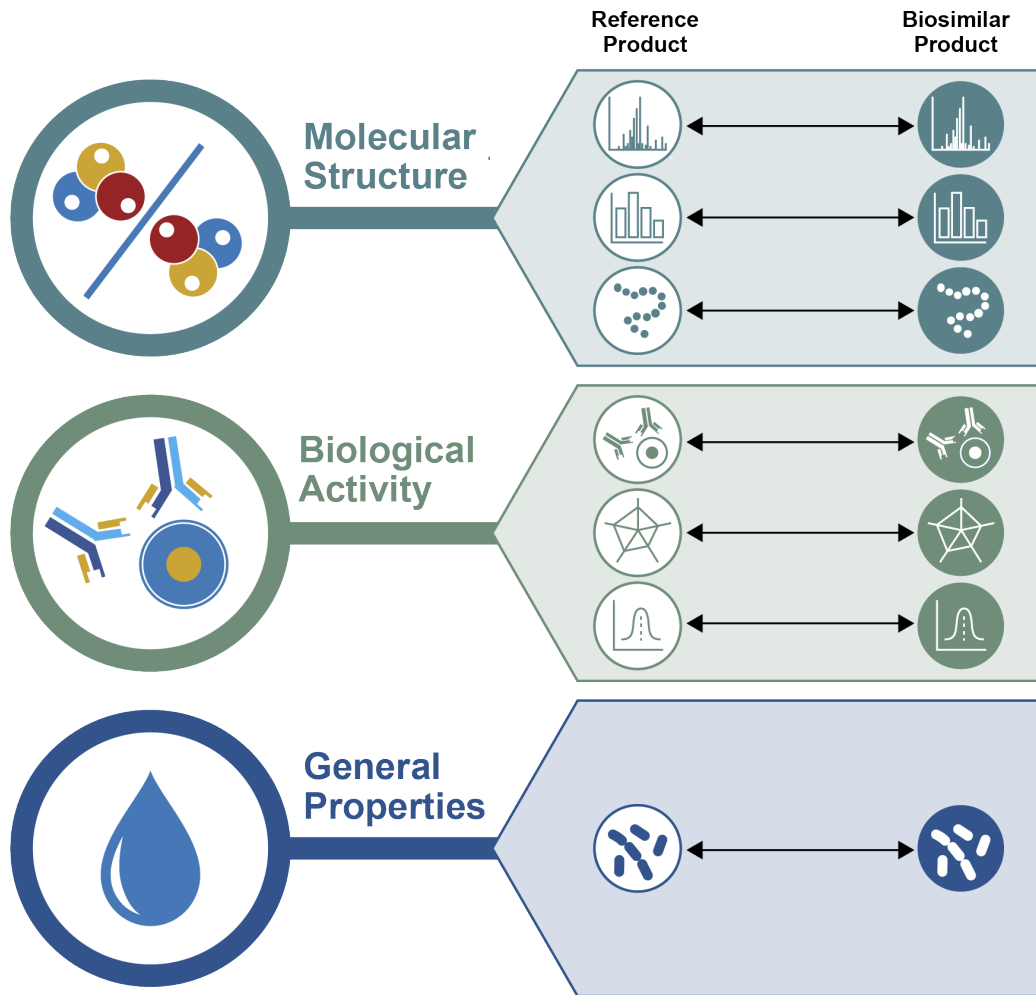
- IPRP BWG Workshop and Concept paper Refined considerations for a CES



- Updated guidance from multiple health authorities
- ICH M18 Topic: Framework for Determining Utility of Comparative Efficacy Studies in Biosimilar Development



# Analytical Comparisons Inform Clinical Performance



- Methods are state-of-the-art, sensitive, reliable, and capable of detecting differences
- Functional Assays reflect known or potential mechanism(s) of action
- Results strengthened when different (orthogonal) methods used to evaluate same attribute



# Breadth of Comparative Analytics

## Hypothetical Release (~12 tests)

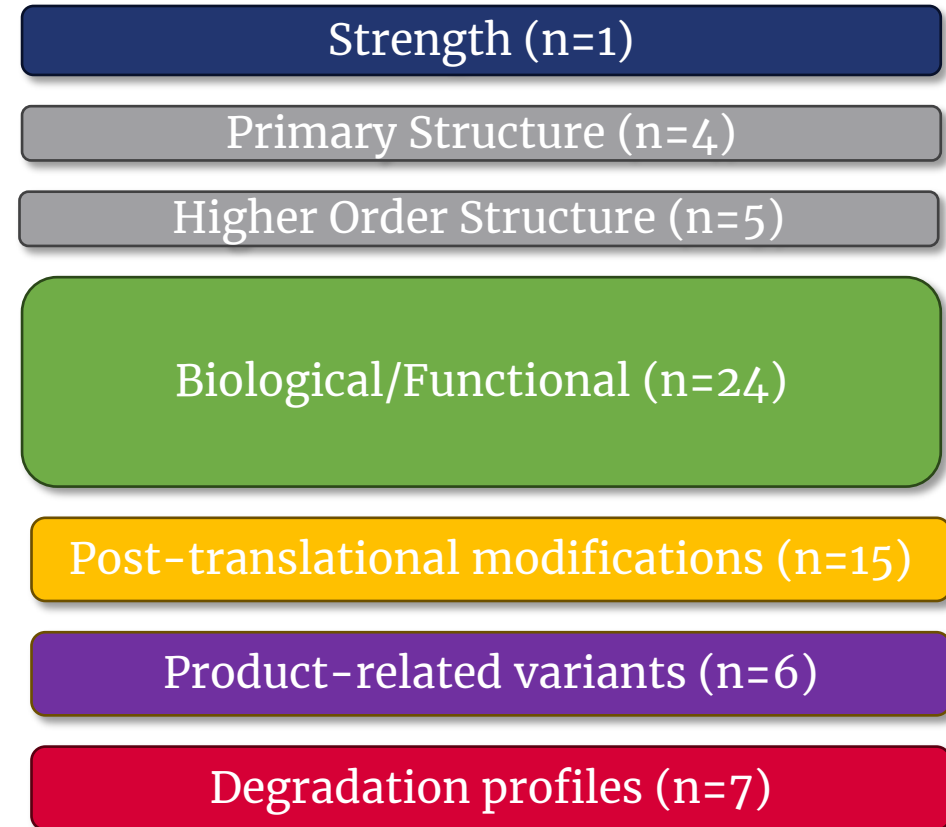


**Additional  
Attributes**



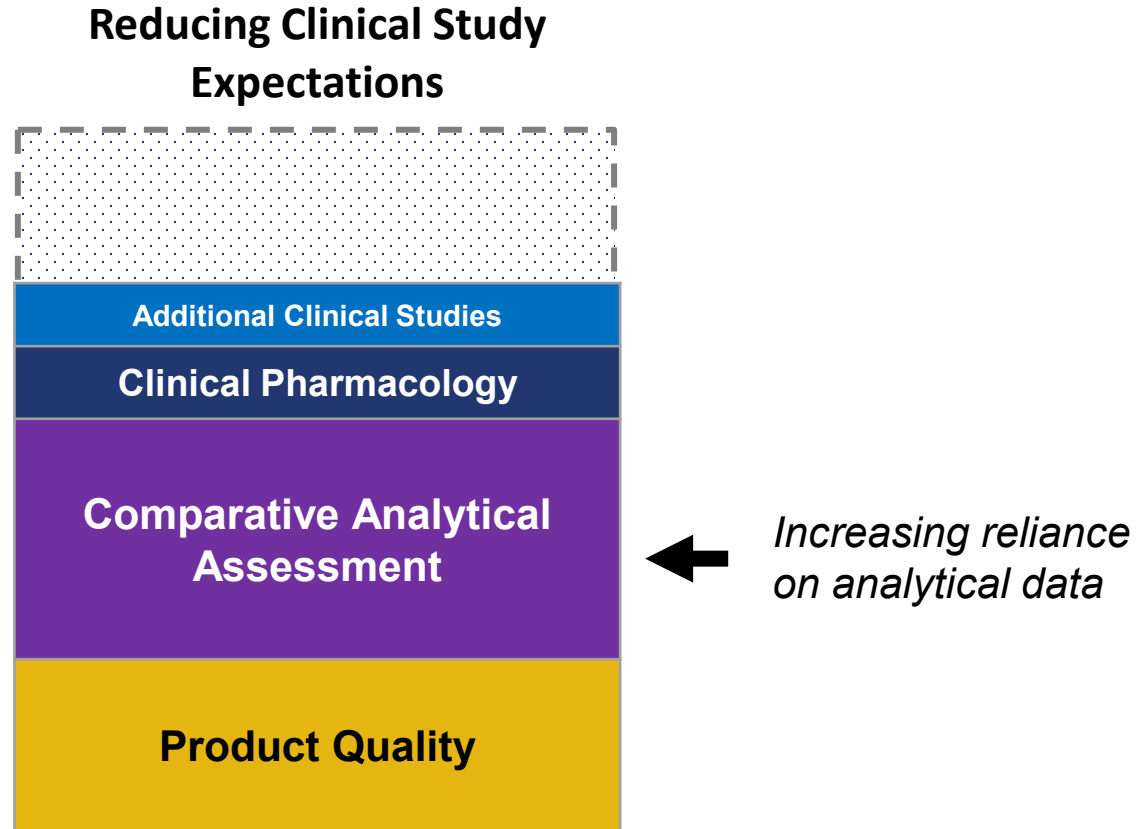
**Orthogonal  
Techniques**

## Hypothetical CAA (> 40 tests)





# Streamlining Biosimilar Development



# Other Active Discussion Areas

- CES: When would a CES inform a demonstration of biosimilarity?
- Immunogenicity: Are there circumstances when clinical immunogenicity data would not inform a demonstration of biosimilarity? When clinical immunogenicity data are needed, what extent of data is expected?
- What data and information are needed to justify the relevance of comparative PK or other clinical data using a non-US comparator to the assessment of biosimilarity?

- Schiestl M et al., The Path Toward a Tailored Clinical Biosimilar Development, BioDrugs (2020) 34:297-306
- Bielsky MC et al., Streamlined Approval of Biosimilars: Moving on from the Confirmatory Efficacy Trial (2020) Drug Discovery Today 9:S1359-6446(20)30343-3. Doi: 10.1016/j.drudis.2020.09.006.
- Guillen E et al. (2023). A Data Driven Approach to Support Tailored Clinical Programs for Biosimilar Monoclonal Antibodies. Clin Pharmacol Ther, 113:108-123. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpt.2785>
- Kirsch-Stefan N, et al. (2023) Do the Outcomes of Clinical Efficacy Trials Matter in Regulatory Decision-Making for Biosimilars? BioDrugs 37:855-871. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40259-023-00631-4>
- Goto K et al., “Survey on the role of comparative efficacy studies required for biosimilar monoclonal antibodies approval in Japan to justify the quality attributes differences between biosimilars and their reference products based on PMDA assessments” Pharmaceut. Med. 2025. Epub 20250919 <http://doi.org/10.1007/s40290-025-00583-w>
- European Medicines Agency. Concept paper for the development of a Reflection Paper on a tailored clinical approach in Biosimilar Development. EMA/CHMP/BMWP/35061/2024. Revised 24 November 2023
- European Medicines Agency. Reflection paper on a tailored clinical approach in biosimilar development. Draft. EMA/CHMP/BMWP/60916/2025. Revised 17 March 2025
- FDA guidance for industry *Scientific Considerations in Demonstrating Biosimilarity to a Reference Product* (April 2015)

# Thank You

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