

fda.gov/biosimilars

GRX+BIOSIMS CONFERENCE

UNDERSTANDING HOW REIMBURSEMENT CAN IMPACT BLA SUBMISSION STRATEGIES

October 27, 2025

M. Stacey Ricci, M.Eng., Sc.D.
Director, Scientific Review Staff
Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars
Office of New Drugs | CDER | FDA

Mustafa Ünlü, Ph.D., J.D.
Director, Policy Staff
Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars
Office of New Drugs | CDER | FDA

Possible Scenario for 2 BLAs for Same Drug Substance



Scenario 1

 Applicant submits BLA1 first and later submits BLA2 with additional strengths/presentations after approval of BLA1



fda.gov/biosimilars | 2

Possible Scenario for 2 BLAs for Same Drug Substance



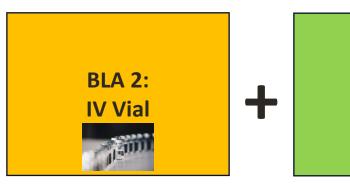
Scenario 2

 Applicant submits BLA1 containing multiple strengths/presentations and later submits BLA2 with a subset of the strengths /presentations that are in BLA1











1st and 2nd BLA Approved



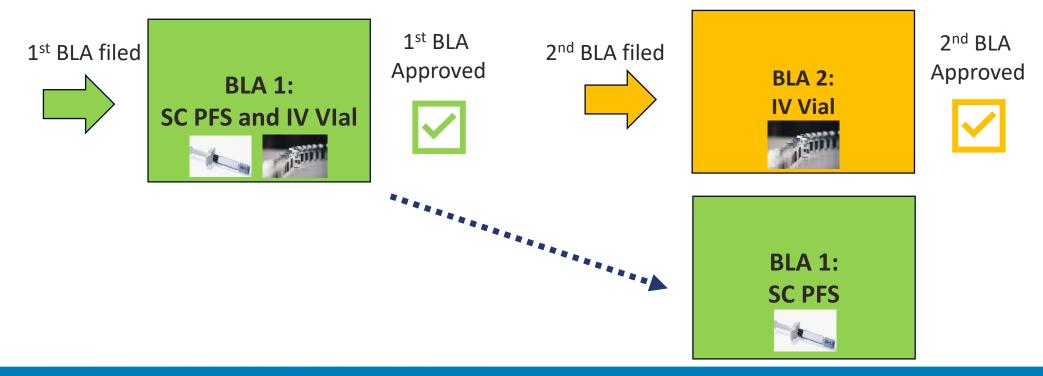


Possible Scenario for 2 BLAs for Same Drug Substance



Scenario 3

 Applicant submits BLA1 containing multiple strengths/presentations. After BLA1 is approved, applicant submits BLA2 with a subset of the strengths /presentations that are in BLA1



Challenges with Splitting a BLA



| 5

- Advising sponsors on how to cross-reference information in BLA1 and BLA2
- Coordinating review timelines of supplements to BLA1 with timeline for BLA2
- Coordinating changes to labeling across applications
- Potential PREA challenges
- Other potential challenges, e.g., exclusivity issues due to first interchangeable exclusivity (FIE); orphan drug exclusivity (ODE)

fda.gov/biosimilars

Scenario 3 is Most Challenging



6

- Sponsor Requests for Early Action on BLA2
- Supplement submission coordination
 - Pending supplements for BLA1 may require approval before taking action on BLA2
 - One case involved 14 supplements submitted to BLA1 while BLA2 was pending, including CMC supplements
- Coordinating timelines between BLAs
 - Same products are both in approved and pending status
- Policy issues
 - Timing of license revocation for product(s) in BLA1
 - Exclusivity issues (some products may be subject to FIE/ODE and/or have FIE)
- Labeling complexities
 - What happens if the reference product updates its labeling while BLA2 is pending
- Potential PREA challenges

fda.gov/biosimilars





Questions?

fda.gov/biosimilars