

Patient:

Date:

What you need to know about changing brands of biologics

We are giving you this information because your brand of biologic may change.

What are biologics



Biologics are medicines made by living cells. Highly similar versions of an original biologic are called **biosimilars**. They have the same active ingredient name as the original biologic but have different brand names.

Before we can supply biosimilars in Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) carefully checks to make sure:



- they work in the same way,
- they are of high quality and
- they are as safe and effective, as the original biologic.

Scan or click here to learn more about [biologics and biosimilars](#) or **talk to your healthcare team**.



Why brands of biologics may change

Sometimes the brand of biologic needs to change because:

- supply of that brand is not possible due to a shortage, or a company is no longer making it.
- there is a different brand at a lower cost. Public hospitals may switch medicine brands to save money. This means public hospitals can fund medicines for more people.

What will be different about the new brand of biologic?



Different brands of biologics may use:

- different devices such as pens or syringes.
- different ways to give the biologic.



Questions to ask if changing your brand of biologic

Supply	<input type="checkbox"/> Where do I get my new brand of biologic?
Cost	<input type="checkbox"/> Will the price change?
Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Do I store the new brand of biologic in the same way? (e.g. in the fridge)
Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Do I use this new brand in the same way as my current brand? <input type="checkbox"/> Do I use the same amount of medicine? <input type="checkbox"/> Will my appointment times need to change?
Other important questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Is there anything else I should know about this new brand? <input type="checkbox"/> Who will support me during the change? <input type="checkbox"/> Who can I talk to if I have a problem with my biologic? <input type="checkbox"/> Can I go back to my previous brand of biologic?

These questions can help you get a better idea of what the brand change means for you. Take time to think about it and talk it over with your healthcare team.



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Know your biologic

You, your carer, or a member of your healthcare team can note down details of your medicine here:

Medicine: <i>(active ingredient)</i>	
This medicine will treat: <i>(add illness)</i>	
New brand:	
Previous brand:	
Dose: <i>(how much medicine you need and how often you need it)</i>	
Start date for new brand:	
Main differences between brands:	
Notes:	

If you have any questions about your medicine, please call:

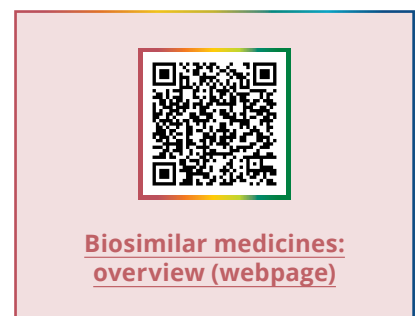
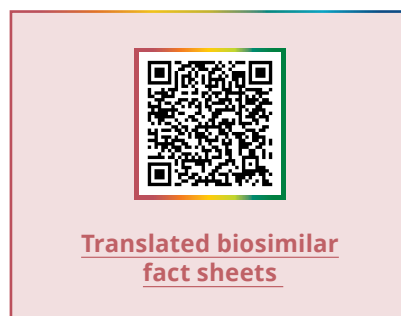
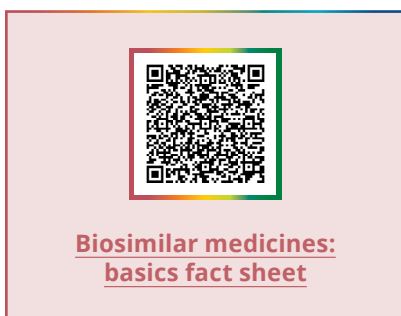
Name: <input type="text"/>	Telephone: <input type="text"/>
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Or you can call **1300 Medicines: 1300 633 424**

1300 Medicines is a free phone service that can help answer questions about your medicines.

Where to get more information on biosimilars

Scan or click the links below to learn more:



You can also read the information that comes with your medicine or **talk to a member of your healthcare team.**



If you need support talking with your healthcare team, ask for help from:

- a family member
- a friend
- a carer
- a trusted patient support person.

CATAG presents the information in this document with all due care. CATAG accepts no responsibility for any loss, claim or damage as a result of using this information. This information does not replace medical advice.

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