

Response ID ANON-H7CY-42TU-A

Submitted on 2015-10-26 10:10:50.790210

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Karen O'Leary

2 What is your email address?

Email:

shpa@shpa.org.au

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

4 What are the main benefits of biosimilar medicines for Australia? Please select any two of the following options.

Choose your first response from six options:

Biosimilars provide a greater range of treatment options.

Choose the second reply from seven options:

The lower cost of biosimilars will make them more affordable for the PBS (and therefore to taxpayers).

If you selected 'other', please add the details here:

5 Consider the statement: Biosimilars are equally safe and effective as their reference (original) biologic. To what extent do you agree?

Biosimilars are equally safe and effective as their reference (original) biologic.:

Strongly agree

6 To what extent do you agree with the following statement? The 10 discussion topics identified in the Implementation Framework will support clinicians and patients to make informed decisions about biosimilar medicines available through the PBS.

The 10 discussion topics identified in the Implementation Framework will support clinicians and patients to make informed decisions about biosimilar medicines available through the PBS.:

Strongly Agree

Please state your reasons:

No specific comment.

Are there any additional areas that need to be communicated to consumers and/or patients? How would you communicate this? (200 words):

The terminology used in the fact sheet is confusing. Rather than terms such as 'reference medicine' standard / international terms should be used; i.e. biologic medicine, biosimilar medicine, biologic originator medicine, biologic reference product.

Consumers / patients should also be encouraged to engage their pharmacists as a resource if they have any queries about biologic medicines including the use of biosimilar medicines.

Are there any additional areas that need to be communicated to clinicians - especially doctors (as prescribers), nurses and pharmacists? How would you communicate this? (200 words):

Clinicians should be referred to the Guiding principles for the governance of biological and biosimilar medicines in Australian hospitals, the principles discussed are applicable to the use of biologics/ biosimilar medicines wherever they are used.

(<http://www.catag.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/OKA10429-CATAG-Overseeing-biosimilar-use-FINAL.pdf>).

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7 Please describe any existing biosimilar communication programmes or activities you are aware of, that you think are working well and why?

Please provide details here:

No specific comment.