What are biosimilars?
Biosimilar medications are also biological drugs that are made from the same types of living materials as biologics, and used in the same way to treat some of the same health problems. They are designed to match an already approved biological drug.

Biologics vs. biosimilars
Biosimilars are very similar to the biologic they’re modeled after.

What are generics?
A generic is a type of drug that contains the same chemicals as a brand name drug. Once a brand name drug’s chemical formula is no longer protected by a patent, other manufacturers can make their own “generic” version of this drug.

Can a pharmacist substitute a biosimilar for a biologic?
If a biosimilar is interchangeable, a pharmacist can substitute it for a biologic without asking the prescribing healthcare provider.

If a biosimilar isn’t interchangeable, it can’t be substituted by the pharmacist without first getting permission from the prescribing healthcare provider.*

*This can vary by state.

Using a biologic and wondering if a biosimilar might cost less but work just as well? Ask your healthcare provider.