Background

The cost of drugs and biologics are the fastest-rising cost component of cancer care, with the highest increase in biologic chemotherapy drugs, which has risen by 355%. The greatest source of inefficiency in the healthcare system is the underuse of generic drugs. Biosimilar drugs provide an additional tool for providers participating in value-based care initiatives, resulting in cost savings and efficiencies as well as broader access for patients. Significant knowledge gaps exist in the awareness of biosimilars and their approval process, and is the primary reason for less-than-expected uptake of biosimilars in the US.

Objective

To educate physician leaders, pharmacists, and providers in the background and availability of biosimilars to enhance value-based care.

Methods

A comprehensive educational program presented at a national conference convened to educate members, medical oncologists, hematologists, advanced practice providers, pharmacists and administrators who serve oncology patients across the country.

Results

All of the respondents had prescribed biosimilars prior to attending the program, and nearly all were interested in learning more about them. All of the respondents saw a role for biosimilars in the Value-based Care Model.

Conclusions

There is awareness and interest in biosimilars in general among some oncology care professionals, as well as the impact of biosimilars on value-based care. Some have prescribed or are likely to prescribe biosimilars and are interested in learning more about them.

Limitations

Small sample limits generalizability. Respondents all had previous experience prescribing biosimilars.

References

Nearly all respondents had at least some to a great deal of familiarity with biosimilars, and all were at least somewhat likely to very likely to prescribe them. A comprehensive educational program presented at a national conference convened to educate members, medical oncologists, hematologists, advanced practice providers, pharmacists and administrators who serve oncology patients across the country.

Biosimilar drugs may provide a value-based care tool for providers, resulting in cost savings/efficiencies and broader access for patients.

**Possible Avenues of Cost Savings**

- **Drug pathways compliance**
  - 45%
  - 0-19%
- **Avoidable hospital admissions**
  - 100%
  - 4-7%
- **Avoidable ER visits**
  - 100%
  - 0-2%
- **Diagnostics – Imaging/ lab**
  - 100%
  - 0-5%
- **Use of generics and biosimilars**
  - 100%
  - 0.6-15.7%
- **End-of-life care management**
  - 68%
  - 45%
- **Avoidable 23% utilization**
  - 50%
  - 34.8%

**Cost Reduction**

- 15.7-25.5% Total Savings

**Cost Savings**

- 9-12%
- 1-3%
- 0.9-1.9%
- 0.6-1.1%
- 0.2-0.5%

**Possible Savings**

- **Medication disposal**
  - 100%
  - 45%
- **Reimbursement**
  - 100%
  - 90.9%