Biosimilar Adoption: Patient and Provider Considerations

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Background

- Prescription drug expenditures accounted for $577 billion in 2021.[1]
- According to estimates from IQVIA, savings from biosimilar utilization between 2020-2024 are projected to be around $104 billion.[2]
- With multiple biosimilars of adalimumab (Humira) in the horizon, there are significant savings that could be realized; however, there are several challenges that need to be addressed to optimize the outcomes and cost-saving opportunities with increased adoption of biosimilars.

Patient Perspective

Lack of awareness of biosimilars is the biggest barrier to adoption

Increasing understanding on what biologics are and their significance in managing conditions is critical

Provider Perspective

Biosimilars are unlikely to be interchangeable at this time

Provider education from payers is critical to reduce provider/member disruption[3]

Tools such as electronic prior authorizations and automated decision support systems within electronic health record systems can minimize disruption

Biosimilars are likely to be priced at a lower average selling price and may result in a lower revenue for the billing provider

Alternative payment models/adjusted fee schedules that reward providers for utilizing biosimilars for their patients

Discussion

- Although there are significant cost savings associated with biosimilars, there are multiple gaps in evidence related to biosimilar adoption related to real-world outcomes on switching among biosimilars (immunogenicity, safety, efficacy).
- Insights on that patient experience with biosimilars are critical to providing patient-centered care.
- Additionally, it is important to recognize that although biosimilars are likely to be a lower net cost option, increased competition is likely going to drive down prices for the biologic reference product. Hence, for those patients/providers who are hesitant to use biosimilars, the reference product should still be considered until the factors related to biosimilar hesitancy are addressed with clinical evidence.

Conclusion

Strategies such as education campaigns, robust real-world evidence, and adjusted fee-schedules can aid in biosimilar adoption.

References

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