

Rheumatology

2020 Clinical Integration (CI) Pharmacy Program

The following are Key Recommendations to help increase Generic Prescribing:

- Reinforce the value of generics with patients, parents, and caregivers
- Prescribe 90 day supplies of maintenance (chronic use) medications (where appropriate)
- Use generic Cymbalta (duloxetine), generic Effexor XR (venlafaxine ER), or generic Pristiq (desvenlafaxine ER) as SNRI therapeutic options.
- Use generic Celexa (citalopram), generic Lexapro (escitalopram), generic Paxil/Paxil CR (paroxetine), generic Prozac (fluoxetine), or generic Zoloft (sertraline) as SSRI options.
- Use acetaminophen or a generic NSAID such as Celebrex (celecoxib), Motrin (ibuprofen), Voltaren (diclofenac sodium), Mobic (meloxicam), or Naprosyn (naproxen), and others. **Avoid Duexis and Vimovo!**
One Duexis tab (ibuprofen 800mg/famotidine 26.6mg) has a list price of \$33.10!
One Vimovo tab (naproxen 500mg/esomeprazole 20mg) has a list price of \$49.64!
- Use generic Ambien (zolpidem), generic Ambien CR (zolpidem ER), generic Intermezzo (zolpidem), generic Lunesta (eszopiclone), or generic Sonata (zaleplon) as short-term (<30 day) therapy. **Reserve Belsomra, Edluar, and Rozerem as secondary options.**

Avoid prescribing benzodiazepines or sedative hypnotics to patients prescribed ≥50 MMEs (morphine milligram equivalents) per day.

- ✓ **Consider prescribing naloxone and educating patient and family on its use.**

Biosimilars 2019

Brand Medication	Biosimilar	FDA Approved	Launch Date
Remicade (infliximab) J&J	Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb) Pfizer	April 2016	Launched
Remicade (infliximab) J&J	Renflexis (infliximab-abda) Samsung Bioepis/Merck	April 2017	Launched
Enbrel (etanercept) Amgen	Erlezi (etanercept-szsz) Sandoz	August 2016	Tbd
Enbrel (etanercept) Amgen	Eticovo (etanercept-ykro) Samsung Bioepis	April 2019	Tbd

Biosimilars – Key Takeaways

- Biosimilars are not exact copies of the brand products - **“Not generics.”**
 - They contain a similar protein/chemical structure and produce similar biological responses.
- The U.S FDA has a process in place to evaluate and approve biosimilars.
 - They **may have** different FDA approved indications compared with the brand.
 - The **“Interchangeable”** designation **will allow** for substitution – like generics
- Most major brand manufacturers will offer a line of biosimilar medications.
- They may be priced 10-20% or more below the brand.
- PBM and insurer formularies **may** or **may not** include the biosimilar **and** the brand on formulary or provide coverage.
- PBMs, insurers, and payers are “counting on” biosimilars to help ease the 15-20% year over year increase in specialty drug spend.
- Physicians will need to prescribe the “follow on” or biosimilar by its name i.e., **Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb)** etc. and to be aware of what indications the medication is approved for.
- Many biosimilars will have coupons and patient assistance (\$\$) programs just like the brands.

Reference:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/TherapeuticBiologicApplications/Biosimilars/>