COMMUNICATION

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PLEASE REVIEW

Drug Information

PharmPix Clinical Department

PharmPix is committed to the health and wellness of our members.

The clinical team wants to communicate the latest up-to-date drug information requested.

Drug Information:

Remember that medical literature is dynamic and is continuously changing as new scientific knowledge is developed. We exhort the frequent revision of treatment guidelines to assure that your recommendations are consistent with the most updated information.

It is our priority to offer high-quality services and support practices for health promotion and diseases prevention. If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us directly or view PharmPix communications online.

QUESTIONS

Call us at 787-522-5252-ext.219

Access our recent communications at our providers' portal: https://www.pharmpix.com/providers/

Addressing Patient Misconceptions About Biosimilars

Understanding Biosimilars

Many patients confuse biosimilars with generics, biologic or bioequivalent drugs, but each term has a different meaning. Generics are exact chemical copies of small-molecule drugs and must demonstrate bioequivalence, meaning they produce the same blood levels of the active ingredient as the brand-name drug. Biosimilars, however, are made from living cells and are highly similar—but not identical—to their reference biologics, with no meaningful differences in safety, purity, or potency. Biologics are complex, large-molecule drugs that are made by using biotechnology, like monoclonal antibodies or growth factors.

The FDA uses a "totality of evidence" approach to evaluate biosimilars, which includes structural and functional comparisons, animal studies, and clinical trials. Patients may wonder how biosimilars are approved for multiple uses without being tested in every indication. This is due to extrapolation, which allows approval for other uses based on scientific evidence from one indication.

Also, not all biosimilars are labeled as interchangeable. This designation simply means the manufacturer has conducted additional switching studies to allow automatic substitution at the pharmacy level—it does not imply that other biosimilars are unsafe or ineffective.

Large studies like NOR-SWITCH and reviews involving over 14,000 patients have confirmed that switching from a reference biologic to a biosimilar does not result in loss of effectiveness or increased adverse effects.

The Pharmacist's Role: Education, Access, and Trust

Pharmacists are trusted healthcare providers and are ideally positioned to correct patient misconceptions about biosimilars. While biosimilars are often more affordable, their real value lies in expanding access to life-saving treatments. Community pharmacists can play a key role by proactively counseling patients and addressing concerns early, using patient-friendly explanations and sharing clinical evidence can reduce hesitancy and improve adherence.

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