

What are Biosimilars?



Biologic drug—a drug made from living organisms

Reference biologic or originator drug—the first version of a biologic drug to be made

Biosimilar drug—the next version of a biologic drug to be made after the reference biologic's patent expires

Lantus® is the reference biologic of insulin glargine. Basaglar® and Semglee® are biosimilar versions of Lantus® currently available on the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary.



Biosimilars work in the same way as the reference biologic. They are built similarly and people can expect the same results from biosimilars.

Biosimilars are:



Safe



Effective



High Quality

Biosimilars are Tried and Tested:



Many people have successfully started or transitioned to a biosimilar:

Provinces and territories across Canada (and many countries around the world) have similar policies that support the use of biosimilars.

Approved by Health Canada using a rigorous process:

Drug studies and clinical trials must show that biosimilars are as effective and safe as reference biologics.

Biosimilars, like Basaglar® and Semglee®, work as well as Lantus® at managing diabetes.

Available and used for many years: Biosimilars have been approved in Canada since 2009 and are used to treat diabetes, anemia, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other conditions.

What stays the same:

- **The effectiveness of your medication:**
Biosimilars are proven to work as well as reference biologics.
- **How you feel taking your medication:**
There are no expected differences in side effects between the biosimilar and reference biologic.
- **How you take your medicine and your dose.**

What might be different:

- **How your medicine looks:**
The package/container may be different.

Basaglar® and Semglee®:

- Same dose as Lantus®
- Same storage as Lantus®

The pen used to give yourself Basaglar® or Semglee® will be different from the pen you use for Lantus®.

- The pen needles you have been using will fit the new pen.

Talk to your healthcare providers to help you transition to a biosimilar.

Ask questions about:

- the similarities and differences between your reference biologic and the biosimilar.
- what to expect from the transition.
- where to find resources about biosimilars.

It is important to check your blood sugars regularly any time your insulin regimen changes, including when you transition to a biosimilar insulin.



Manitoba 

Visit the Manitoba Biosimilars Initiative web page at: <https://gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/biosimilars.html> for more information on biosimilars and the Manitoba Biosimilars Initiative.

