biosimilar medicines
better access. better health.

Press Release

2017 Biosimilar Medicines Policy Overview: better access is crucial; tailored solutions essential for EU governments

For immediate release

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- For the first time the brand new '2017 Market Review – Biosimilar Medicines Markets' provides a detailed overview of biosimilar medicines policies in 31 European countries.
- Countries and regions have implemented a variety of policies for biosimilar medicines with varying degrees of success. Tailor-made policies, taking into account the different market characteristics, are essential success factors for health systems.
- Biosimilar medicines are cornerstone to sustainable health provision in Europe. Member States must implement coherent policies to improve sustainable access to medicines.

Biosimilar medicines are transforming treatment by enabling better access to biological medicines while improving the sustainability of European healthcare budgets. For the first time, Medicines for Europe has reviewed the policies supporting biosimilar medicines in Europe in the '2017 Market Review – Biosimilar Medicines Markets'.

The 2017 Market Review provides a comprehensive overview of biosimilar medicines policies in 31 European countries detailing the status of biosimilar medicines availability, pricing system, tendering, reimbursement, and benefit sharing for physicians, pharmacists and patients.

The review illustrates that governments have realized that biosimilar medicines need a tailor-made policy framework and have disentangled their pricing policies from those of generic medicines. Physician-led switching, information and education for patients remain the key drivers for increased use of biosimilar medicines. EU education efforts, led by the European Commission, will facilitate these national activities thanks to the availability of translations into all EU languages later this year.

Adrian van den Hoven, Director General Medicines for Europe, commented: *"Biosimilar medicines bring competition to the market and greatly improve access to biological therapies that are out of reach for too many patients in Europe. This overview shows that policy-makers need dedicated policies to provide more sustainable access to biosimilar medicines. Benefit sharing with stakeholders has proven to be the most successful approach to improve access and we encourage governments to learn from the best practices around Europe".*

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The Biosimilar Medicines Group

The **Biosimilar Medicines Group** is a sector group of Medicines for Europe and represents the leading companies developing, manufacturing and marketing biosimilar medicines across Europe. Our members bring competition to the biologic medicines market, thereby increasing access to highly innovative medical treatments to patients in Europe and around the world, and supporting the sustainability of the European healthcare systems.

About Medicines for Europe

Medicines for Europe represents the generic, biosimilar and value added medicines industries across Europe. Its vision is to provide sustainable access to high quality medicines, based on 5 important pillars: patients, quality, value, sustainability and partnership. Its members employ 160,000 people at over 350 manufacturing and R&D sites in Europe, and invest up to 17% of their turnover in medical innovation. **Medicines for Europe** member companies across Europe are both increasing access to medicines and driving improved health outcomes. They play a key role in creating sustainable European healthcare systems by continuing to provide high quality, effective generic medicines, whilst also innovating to create new biosimilar medicines and bringing to market value added medicines, which deliver better health outcomes, greater efficiency and/or improved safety in the hospital setting for patients. For more information please follow us at www.medicinesforeurope.com and on Twitter @medicinesforEU.

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