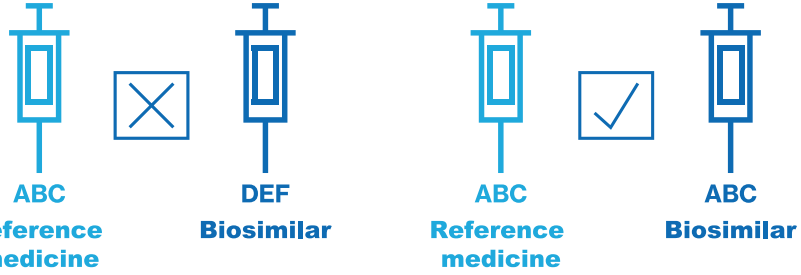
Naming

A biosimilar and the reference medicine have the same active ingredient. Therefore a biosimilar should have the same international nonproprietary name (INN) as the reference medicine.

Instead of changing the INN, there are better ways to distinguish between biologics, for example, the use of brand names.

Introducing new naming systems can cause unnecessary complexity and confusion.



Sandoz, a Novartis division, believes that new naming systems may lead to treatment errors, and have serious consequences for patients and healthcare communities.

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The European Medicines Association[3], and Health Canada[5] support to use the same INN as the reference medicine.

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