Procurement of biologics

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Manufacturers of innovator and biosimilar medicines should have equal opportunities to secure treatment volumes based on the overall value of the medicine for patients and the health care systems.

Market intervention tools that unilaterally favor one product class should not be promoted.
Disincentives to the use of biosimilars should be removed.

Participation of multiple players in the market (reference biologic and biosimilar medicines) is preferable to a “winner-takes-all” approach, which discourages both reference biologic and biosimilar medicine manufacturers from staying in the market in the long term.

Policies to promote the use of biologic medicines need to address additional issues compared to frameworks for generic small molecules. In particular, biologic medicines require specific pricing and market access considerations that reflect the comparably higher regulatory and manufacturing complexities as well as the significant value they bring to patients and society.*

Novartis supports competition by biosimilar medicines to allow health systems to invest savings from procurement of off-patent medicines in expanding access to treatments and innovative therapies.

* Specificities of each therapy area and biologic molecule shouldbe taken into account.

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