

Date: May 2018

Re: Report from 1st Patient Workshop on Biosimilar Medicines

Meeting date: 25th April 2018, London, United Kingdom

Summary of discussions

When reflecting on the future of health care and the role that biosimilar medicines can play, it is necessary to pursue/continue to combine efforts with all stakeholders, and particularly the patient community to really achieve the benefits biosimilar medicines can bring patients and the system itself.

This meeting was the opportunity to have a focused workshop on the patient perspective on biosimilar medicines. This workshop allowed participants to share views across therapeutic areas and identify common points where we can really combine efforts to make a sustainable healthcare system a reality in the future.

We focused the discussions on how to concretely improve the current state of play and concurred that while there may be enough information on biosimilar medicines available it was particularly important to work on having it easily accessed, found (vehicle and tools to deliver the message), having it suitable (wording and language) and issued by a reliable trust worthy source.

Information to patients should meet the following criteria:



This initiative allowed participants to exchange views between different stakeholders with different perspectives across therapeutic areas, so we can do what is best, in solidarity for all patients. This collaboration can facilitate us to build a brighter future for

patients who require biological medicines for the effective management of their conditions, irrespective of what these may be.

Brainstorming of ideas

In ensuring information on biosimilar medicines is accessible for patients, more focus should be paid to the importance of language used as well as translations in national languages. Reinvestment in healthcare can also include investing in the translation of patient information material.

An effective way of ensuring patient communities are equipped with the right information is to involve the patient advocacy groups/representatives. Training to patient advocacy groups is always a welcome initiative.

For patient advocates and leaders, ‘train the trainer’ initiatives can be useful to spread the patient perspective and message.

Policy recommendations are an important tool and can be used as a basis to develop tailored information for patients.

Addressing commonly-asked questions that a patient may have for their doctor is important and empowering. This is a structured approach to information, as past experience has shown that some patients are more engaged in their treatment pathways and decisions than others wish to be. Short documents with top questions to ask your Doctor can be effective ways to provide guidance for patient/physician/pharmacist discussion.

The involvement and engagement of regulatory/institutional authorities with patient groups is important. Regulatory authorities are a legitimate source of information, but the material they produce may not always be accessible/digestible to a non-scientific audience. Collaboration in this area can help spread the message of the regulatory authority.

Action points/Next steps

- Collaboration with patient groups should be supported and continue.
- Medicines for Europe to draft a consensus document from the workshop that can be shared with our networks as a roadmap to achieve better access to medicines for patients. The timeline for this would be late June/early July.

- All participants to highlight importance of regulator-patient group collaboration with European Medicines Agency if opportunity arises. For example, the consensus paper could also be sent to EMA colleagues if appropriate.
- This group to meet again at next Medicines for Europe – European Patient’s Forum annual dialogue meeting (provisionally foreseen for October 2018) and report to wider group on our collaboration.

For queries, please feel free to get in touch!

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