

Pharmacists making such substitutions are required to notify the practitioner of the substitution within three days and maintain records of the substitution for at least five years. The requirement to notify the practitioner of the substitution is repealed three years after the first biosimilar product is approved by the FDA as interchangeable with a specific biological product. Pharmacists must communicate with the purchaser orally and in writing and label the container with information about the substituted biosimilar product when making a substitution.

The Board of Pharmacy will maintain a link on its website to the FDA website that identifies approved biosimilar products once that becomes available.

State and Local Expenditures

This bill will have no fiscal impact in the near term as no biological products have been approved as biosimilar or interchangeable to date. The FDA is currently establishing standards for the licensing of these products and has no projected date for the first biosimilar product to be on the market. When biosimilar products are approved, the Medicaid program and state and local group health plans are expected to see savings in prescription drug costs.

Departments Contacted

Corrections
Public Health and Environment

Health Care Policy and Financing
Regulatory Agencies