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A Policy E-Brief from:
AfPA Health Policy Council
Communicating Biosimilar Substitutions



STATE ACTIVITY

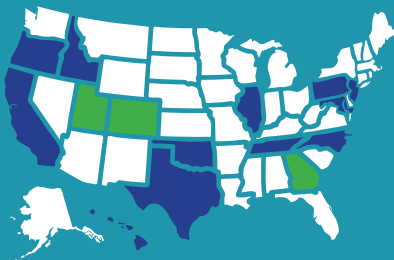
Several states have taken up legislation requiring pharmacists to communicate switches to prescribing physicians.

Active Bills

- California
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Maryland
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Texas

Passed Bills

- Colorado
- Utah
- Georgia
- Tennessee



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With the Food and Drug Administration's first approved biosimilar, the United States welcomes a new class of medications that could provide cost savings for patients. But states face a crucial patient safety question: Will physicians know when pharmacists switch a prescribed biologic for a similar-but-not-identical biosimilar?

Informing Physicians About Biosimilar Substitution

A Small Price To Pay For Patient Safety

only **5%**
volume of biologics
are distributed by
retail pharmacies
in the U.S.

Pharmacies already
communicate
substitutions for
some medications

Electronic data
sharing makes
communication simple



PATIENTS REAP THE BENEFIT

Patients receive safe, effective treatment because their physician knows which medication they're taking

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WHY DOCTORS NEED TO KNOW WHEN PHARMACISTS SUBSTITUTE BIOLOGICAL MEDICINES



DON'T KEEP PHYSICIANS GUESSING ABOUT BIOSIMILAR SWAPS

