

# What are Biosimilars?



**Biologic drug**—a drug made from living organisms

**Reference biologic or originator drug**—the first version of a biologic drug to be made

**Biosimilar drug**—the next version of a biologic drug to be made after the reference biologic's patent expires

Lantus® is the reference biologic of insulin glargine. Basaglar® and Semglee® are biosimilar versions of Lantus® currently available on the PEI Pharmacare Formulary.



**Biosimilars work in the same way as the reference biologic. They are built similarly and people can expect the same results from biosimilars.**

## Biosimilars are:



Safe



Effective



High Quality

## Biosimilars are Tried and Tested:



**Many people have successfully started or transitioned to a biosimilar:**

Provinces and territories across Canada (and many countries around the world) have similar policies that support the use of biosimilars.

**Approved by Health Canada using a rigorous process:**

Drug studies and clinical trials must show that biosimilars are as effective and safe as reference biologics.

Biosimilars, like Basaglar® and Semglee®, work as well as Lantus® at managing diabetes.

**Available and used for many years:** Biosimilars have been approved in Canada since 2009 and are used to treat diabetes, anemia, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other conditions.

## What stays the same:

- **How effective your medication is:**  
Biosimilars are proven to work as well as reference biologics.
- **How you feel taking your medication:**  
There are no expected differences in side effects between the biosimilar and reference biologic.
- **How you take your medicine and your dose.**

## What might be different:

- **How your medicine looks:**  
The package/container may be different.

Basaglar® and Semglee®:

- Same dose as Lantus®
- Same storage as Lantus®

The pen used to give yourself Basaglar® or Semglee® will be different from the pen you use for Lantus®.

- The pen needles you have been using will fit the new pen.

## Talk to your healthcare providers to help you transition to a biosimilar.

Ask questions about:

- the similarities and differences between your reference biologic and the biosimilar.
- what to expect from the transition.
- where to find resources about biosimilars.

It is important to check your blood sugars regularly any time your insulin regimen changes, including when you transition to a biosimilar insulin.



Health PEI

Visit the [PEI Biosimilar Initiative web page](#) for more information on biosimilars and the PEI Biosimilar Initiative.

