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Determinantes, barreiras e facilitadores da utilização de medicamentos biossimilares nos hospitais públicos em Portugal

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Biologic drugs represented, in 2021, 78.6 billion euros spending, and 34% of drug expenditures in Europe
- » 80% of the main 9 therapy classes were accessible to biosimilar competition
- » Biosimilars are
 - highly like existing biological drugs
 - approved with the “same high standards of quality, safety and efficacy”

FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » 1. Need for a stronger and earlier management, communication, and education effort at national level and **on academic hospitals** before the originator is widely selected for most patients
- » 2. Early preparation (before launching), diffusion, and monitoring of guidelines by the **Ministry of Health** (e.g., CNFT and DGS) and **independent bodies**
- » 3. Guidelines should be diffused widely, among less experienced professionals and physicians, by entities of the MoH. Efforts should be devoted to the communication of scientific evidence and of norms regarding biosimilars, and to **identify and help overcome barriers** to their uptake. Pharmacists well positioned to collaborate in these communication and management tasks

FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » 4. Specific education strategies should be developed towards medicine students and recently graduated specialists, oriented to efficiency and sustainability issues, critical reading of scientific evidence, and the role of biosimilars.
- » 5. The role of CFT, and their link to hospital Executive Boards and departments, should be reinforced.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

- » The uptake and diffusion of biosimilars is also influenced by contextual factors that could not be addressed in the study.
- » Adequate pricing models and centralized procurement strategies are key to ensure that efficiency gains of biosimilar drugs are fully exploited.
- » Hospitals and physicians' financing models must be adequately designed, to incentivize efficiency; without such incentives, efficiency gains lose relevance.



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