

# Biosimilar Perceptions Among Autoimmune Prescribers and Pharmacists in Health System Specialty Pharmacy



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## BACKGROUND

- In 2023, ten self-administered biosimilars indicated for autoimmune conditions are expected to launch in the United States, resulting in additional treatment options for patients and a potential for cost savings.
- The launch of these new biosimilars represents the first wave of self-administered, pharmacy-dispensed specialty medications as compared to provider-administered, medically-billed biologics like Remicade.
- Perception and knowledge of self-administered biosimilars among health system prescribers and health system specialty pharmacists is limited.

## OBJECTIVES

To develop a survey that assesses knowledge and perceptions of biosimilars among autoimmune prescribers and health system specialty pharmacists across the United States.

## METHODS

### Study Design

This descriptive, cross-sectional, survey-based study was conducted across the outpatient specialty pharmacy services arena of CPS Solutions.

### Subjects

INCLUSION CRITERIA	EXCLUSION CRITERIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rheumatology, dermatology, and gastroenterology prescribers servicing patients with an autoimmune disease and prescribing biologics for autoimmune diseases.</li> <li>Pharmacists practicing in autoimmune clinics, managing patients prescribed a biologic product for treatment of their autoimmune condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

## DATA COLLECTION AND ENDPOINTS

### Questionnaire Development

Two different surveys were created by the CPS clinical outcomes research team in January 2023 and refined through five iterations informed by discussion with a team of clinical outcomes investigators.

Clinical autoimmune experts reviewed the surveys on four separate occasions to ensure clinical relevance and appropriateness.

In each survey, the first series of questions collected demographic information such as gender, age group, years in practice, and location. The second series of questions evaluated biosimilar knowledge and was comprised of multiple choice and true or false questions. The third series of questions consisted of a five-point Likert-type ordinal scale (1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree) that evaluated perception and comfortability of biosimilars.

The survey was sent by email and three reminder notifications were sent by email at weekly intervals to promote response rates from prescribers and pharmacists.

### Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data with count and percentage reported for each item.

## RESULTS

### Participant Demographic

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS	Prescribers (N=31)	Pharmacists (N=44)
Female Sex, n (%)	18 (60%)	28 (63%)
Age, n (%)		
21-30	1 (3.33)	7 (15.91)
31-40	14 (46.67)	25 (56.82)
41-50	8 (26.67)	11 (25)
51-60	6 (20)	1 (2.27)
Years in Practice, n (%)		
< 1 year	1 (3.23)	15 (34.09)
1-5 years	10 (32.26)	22 (50)
5-10 years	6 (19.35)	5 (11.36)

FIGURE 1: Prescriber preparedness to have conversation with patients on biosimilars

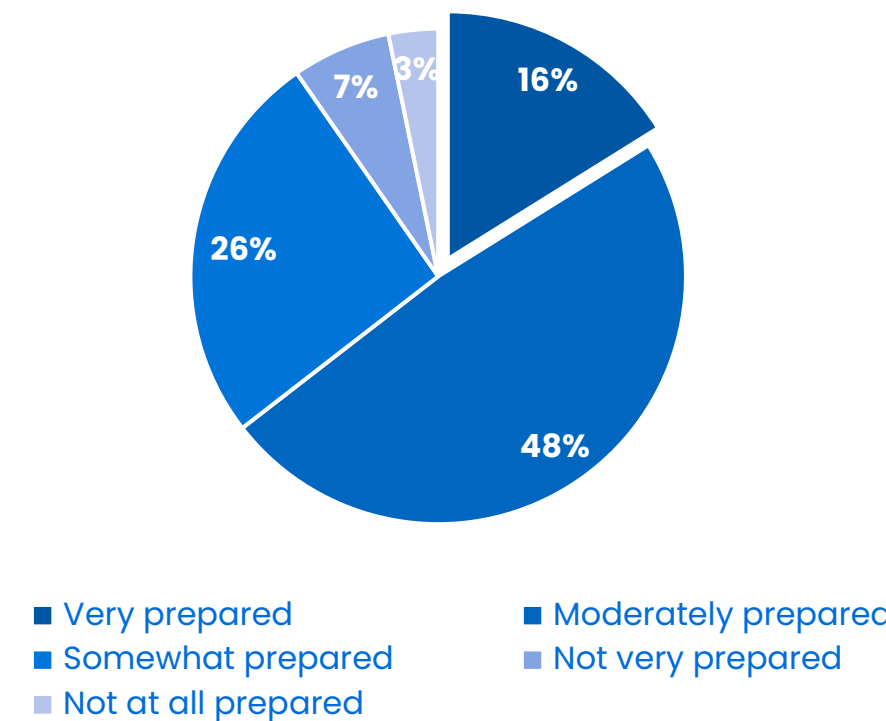
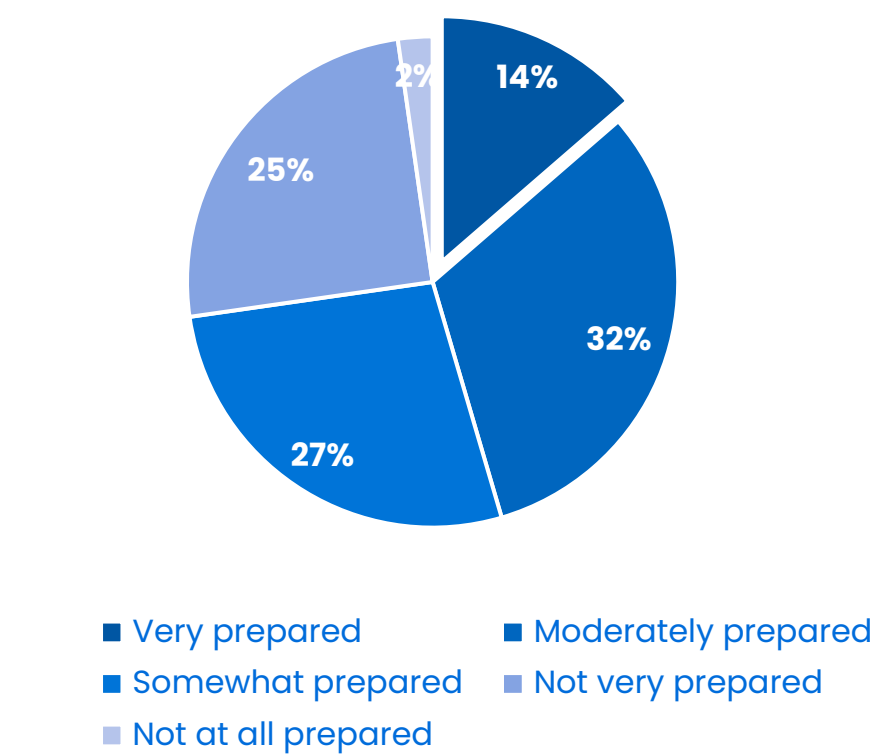


FIGURE 3: Pharmacist preparedness to counsel patients on biosimilars



BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS	Prescribers (N=31)
Type of Provider, n (%)	
Medical Doctor	19 (61.29)
Nurse Practitioner	7 (22.58)
Physician Assistant	5 (16.3)
Specialty, n (%)	
Rheumatology	17 (54.84)
Dermatology	6 (19.35)
Gastroenterology	8 (25.8)

FIGURE 2: Prescriber comfort prescribing biosimilars

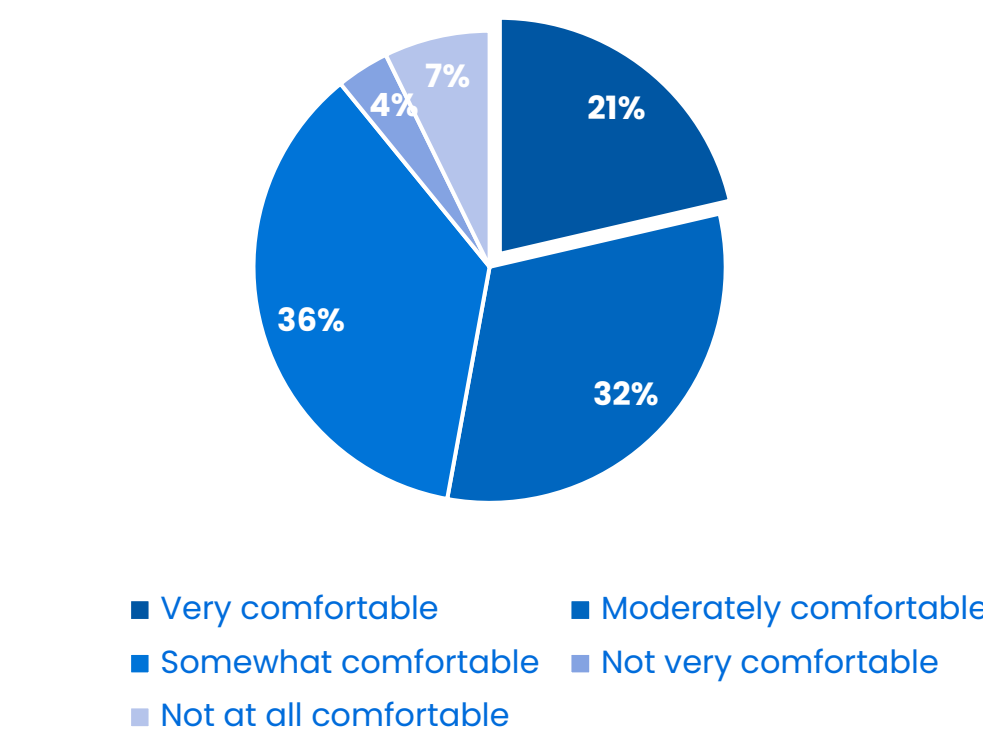
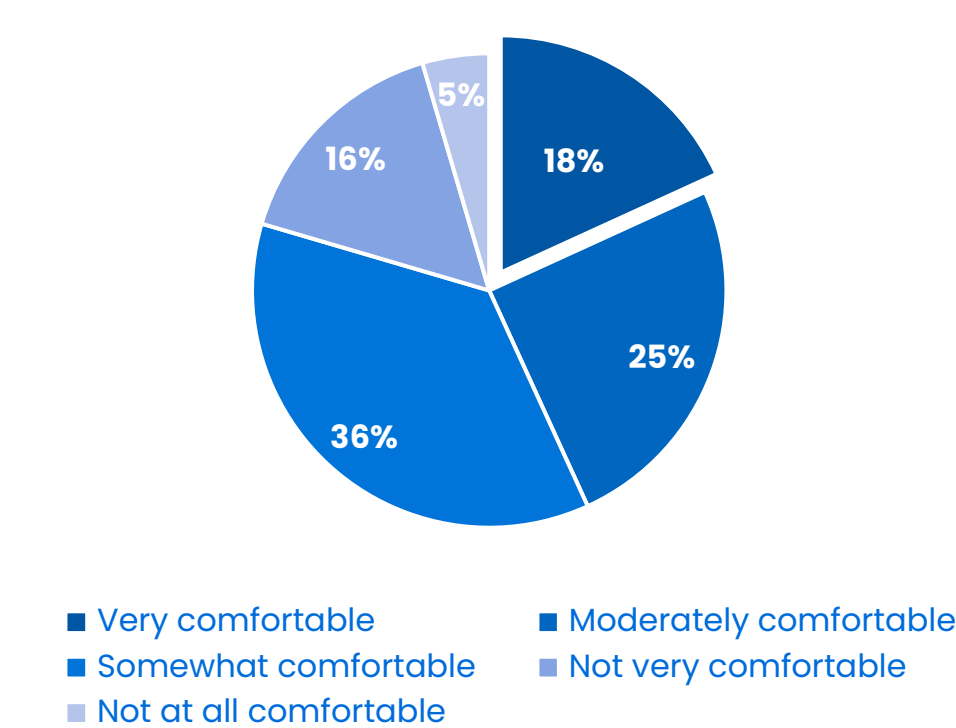


FIGURE 4: Pharmacist comfort recommending biosimilars



## RESULTS

FIGURE 4: Patients for whom prescribers are more likely to prescribe a biosimilar

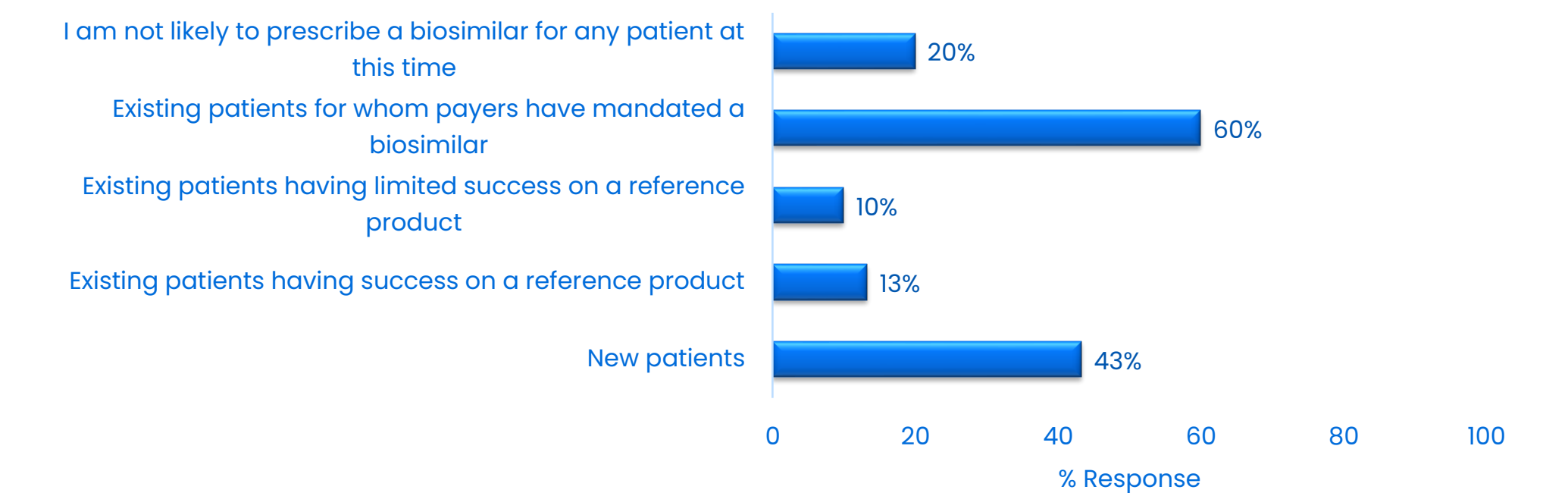
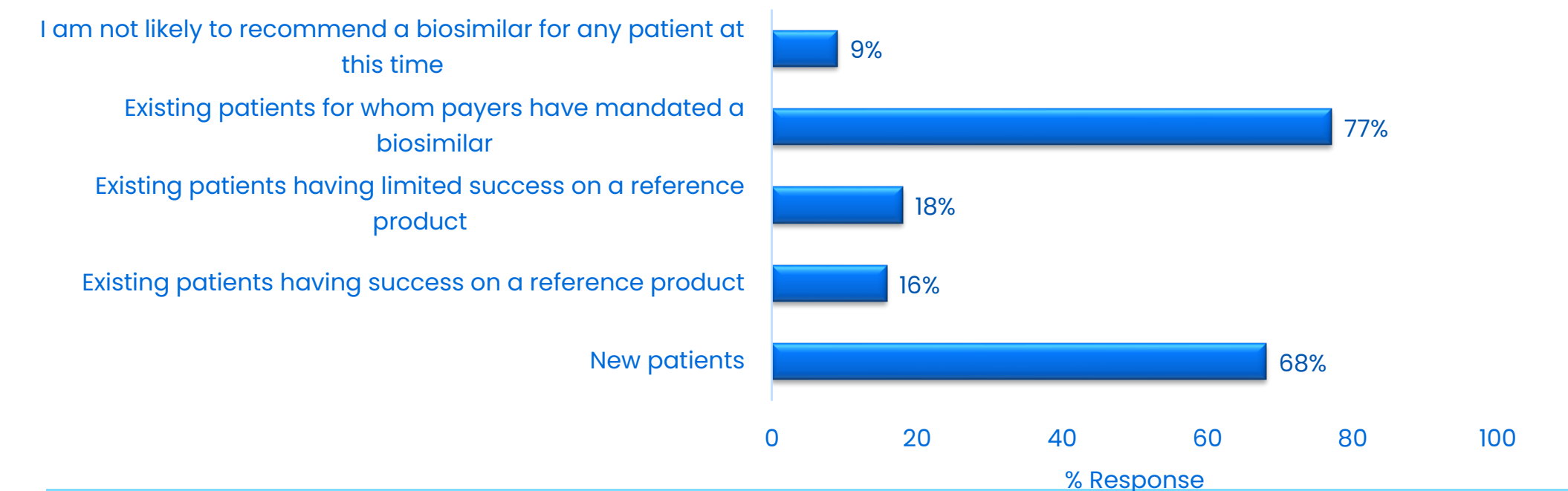


FIGURE 5: Patients for whom pharmacists are more likely to recommend a biosimilar substitution to a prescriber



## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Our study highlights several knowledge gaps and hesitations that exist among health system specialty prescribers and pharmacists regarding biosimilar products.
- Education efforts are needed regarding the FDA's review and approval process for all approved biological, biosimilar, and interchangeable products as well as other available resources that can provide guidance on this topic.
- Specialty pharmacists in the health system are uniquely positioned to close these knowledge gaps and encourage acceptance of biosimilars.

## REFERENCES

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- Cohen HP, McCabe D. The importance of countering biosimilar disparagement and misinformation. *BioDrugs*. 2020; 34(4): 407-14.