



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Fón: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

Albert Dolan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th November 2025

PQ: 56633/25

To ask the Minister for Health the total additional cost to the HSE resulting from sub-optimal uptake of best value medicines since the programme was introduced; and the impact this has had on access to new medicines for patients; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Albert Dolan

Dear Deputy Dolan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 56633/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Our Finance department have provided the below in response to your query:

€586.1m in efficiencies in PCRS have been generated from the BvB savings initiative up to September 2025. This saving should be referenced when addressing the sub-optimal element.

PCRS Biosimilar	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	202509 YTD
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Biosimilar market							
Originator / PI	€201,117,257	€144,469,707	€111,774,377	€ 98,216,875	€ 74,210,213	€ 70,045,204	€ 56,842,665
BvB	€ 11,733,560	€ 69,074,535	€116,625,375	€135,229,550	€148,925,712	€155,308,817	€117,104,886
	€212,850,817	€213,534,242	€228,399,752	€233,446,225	€223,135,925	€225,354,021	€173,747,551
Biosimilar Market split							
Originator / PI	94.5%	67.7%	48.9%	42.1%	33.3%	31.1%	33%
BvB	5.5%	32.3%	51.1%	57.9%	66.7%	68.9%	67%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Biosimilar savings							
Originator / PI (price match to BvB Jul23)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 5,880,350	€ 17,988,210	€ 20,207,730
BvB (Commenced July 2019)	€ 8,866,619	€ 46,098,280	€ 80,346,662	€ 99,135,285	€107,943,438	€116,240,174	€ 83,456,813
	€ 8,866,619	€ 46,098,280	€ 80,346,662	€ 99,135,285	€113,803,788	€134,228,384	€103,664,543

*Source:- PCRS Monthly Performance report workings

If the patients who were being dispensed the Originator drug had switched to the BvB alternative on day 1 in 2019, at the price differential in 2019 between Originator and BvB, the additional saving to the State would have been €168.9m, split between the following Originator drugs:-

BvB Drug (Originator)	Sub-Optimal Cost
Humira	€ 124,948,004
Enbrel	€ 29,723,803
Neulasta	€ 1,953,378
Copaxone	€ 7,739,053
Forsteo	€ 4,546,833
	€ 168,911,070

This sub-optimal uptake value will be further reduced by other factors such as price realignments etc. but this would involve a significant creation of a record to provide the definitive answer.

A total of c.406,000 Originator Drugs were dispensed during the 43 month period July 2023. A number of Originators price matched the BvB in July 2023 resulting in no further loss to the State from that date.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie