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Community
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Agreement



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BIOSIMILARS AWARENESS INITIATIVE

15 November 2016



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At a Glance

- Biosimilar medicines are highly similar, but not identical versions of a biological medicine. This is because the manufacturing processes that are used in the production of biological medicines are naturally variable.
- The safety, effectiveness and quality of the biosimilar medicine, once assessed by the regulator, has been shown to not be affected by the minor differences between the originator biological (also known as the reference biological medicine) and the biosimilar medicine.



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- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regulates and monitors the safety of all medicines, including biosimilar medicines. Manufacturers are required to have a risk management plan in place before the medicine can be registered, and the TGA investigates all reports of problems.
- The introduction of biosimilar medicines improves access to these high-cost treatments by encouraging competition which leads to price reductions. This will have a positive impact within Australian hospitals and the sustainability of the PBS.

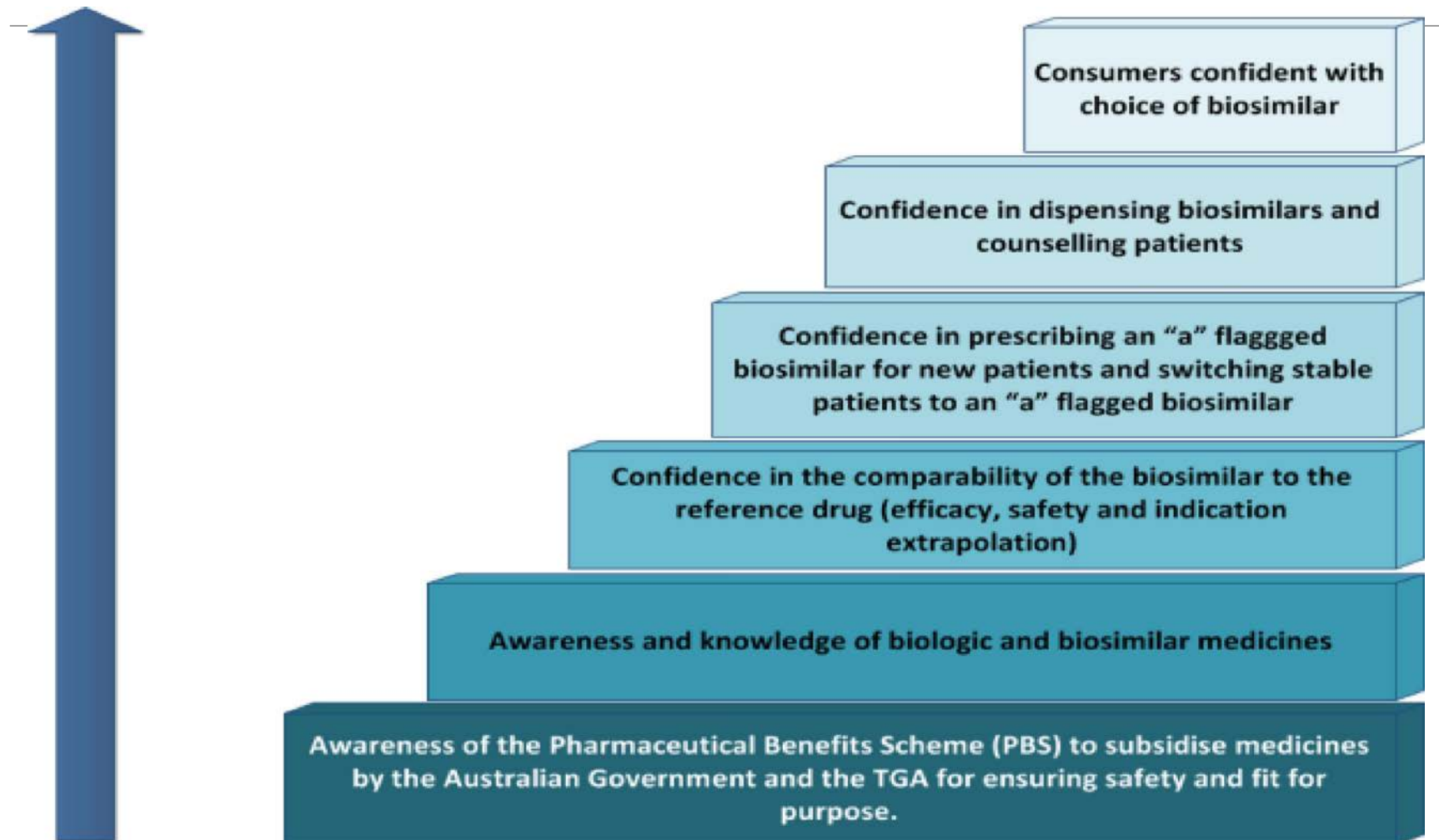


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Desired Outcomes of the Initiative





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Stakeholder Groups





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Governance and Research

- Establishment of robust project management processes and governance for the Initiative
- Research activities
 - Market research
 - Literature review
 - Input from other health information providers; the Health Communications Branch, NPS MedicineWise and TGA
- Development of a communications strategy
- Stakeholder identification and analysis
- Development of core themes for the Initiative



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RESEARCH RESULTS



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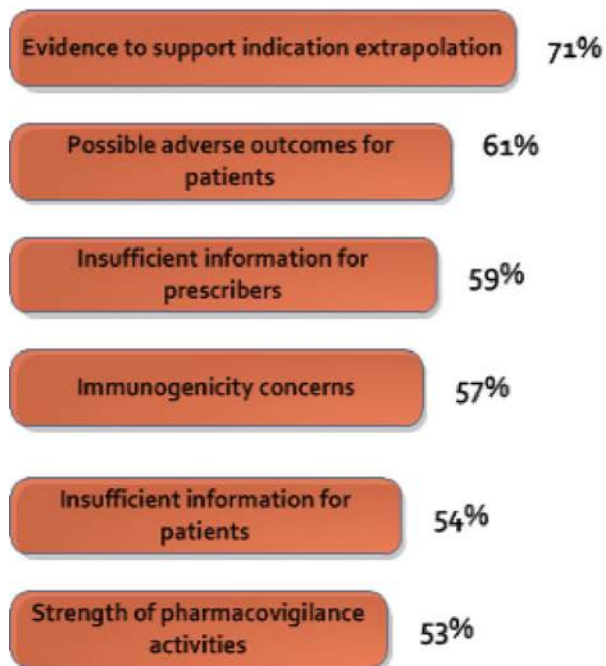


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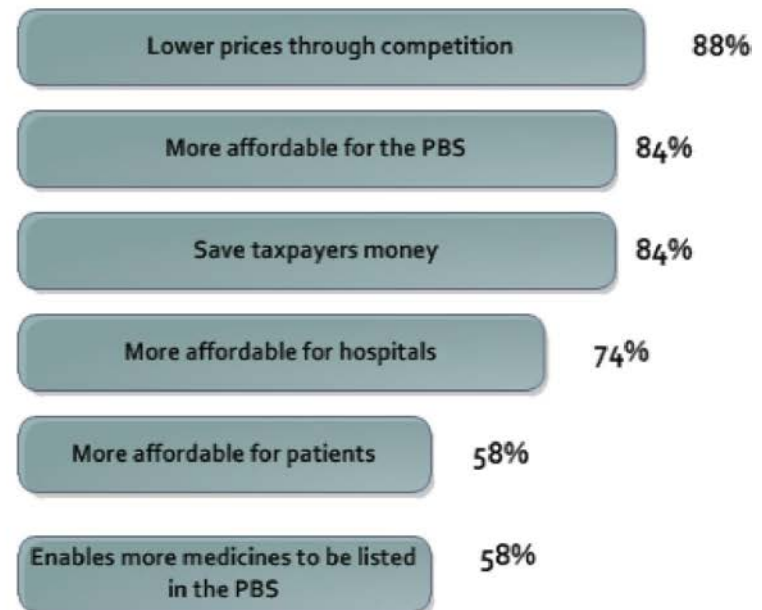
Specialists

Perceived barriers and benefits to prescribing/dispensing biosimilar medicines (n=200)

Barriers (n=128 of 200 surveyed)



Benefits (n=170 of 200 surveyed)





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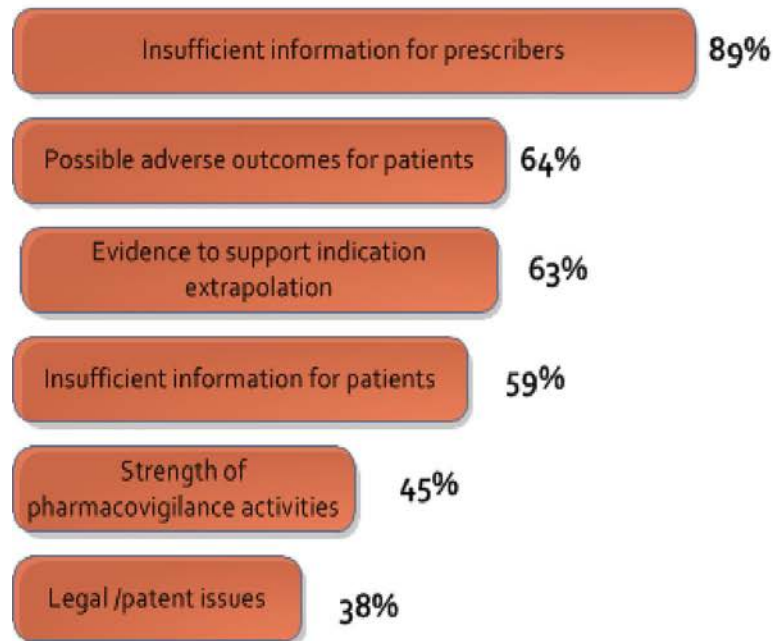


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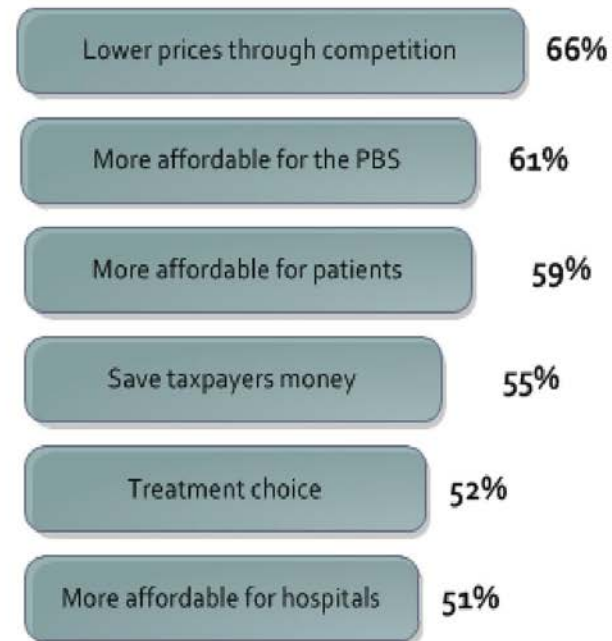
General Practitioners

Perceived barriers and benefits to prescribing/dispensing biosimilar medicines (n=100)

Barriers (n=56 of 100 surveyed)



Benefits (n=71 of 100 surveyed)





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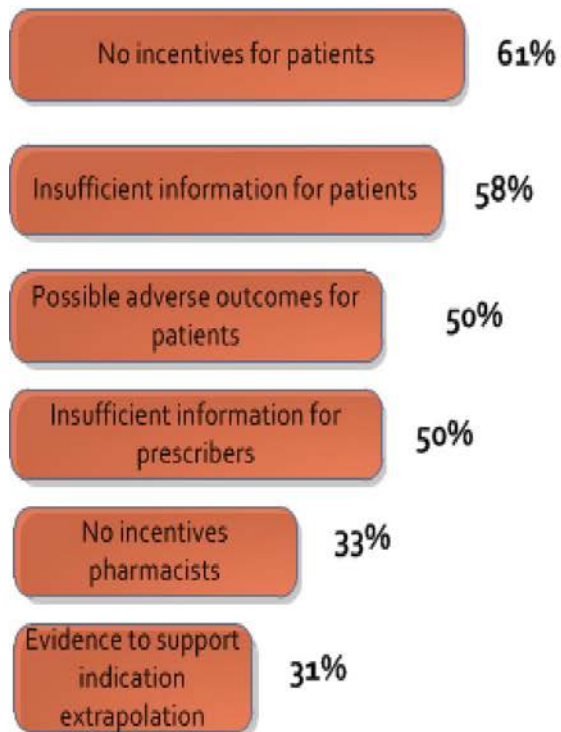


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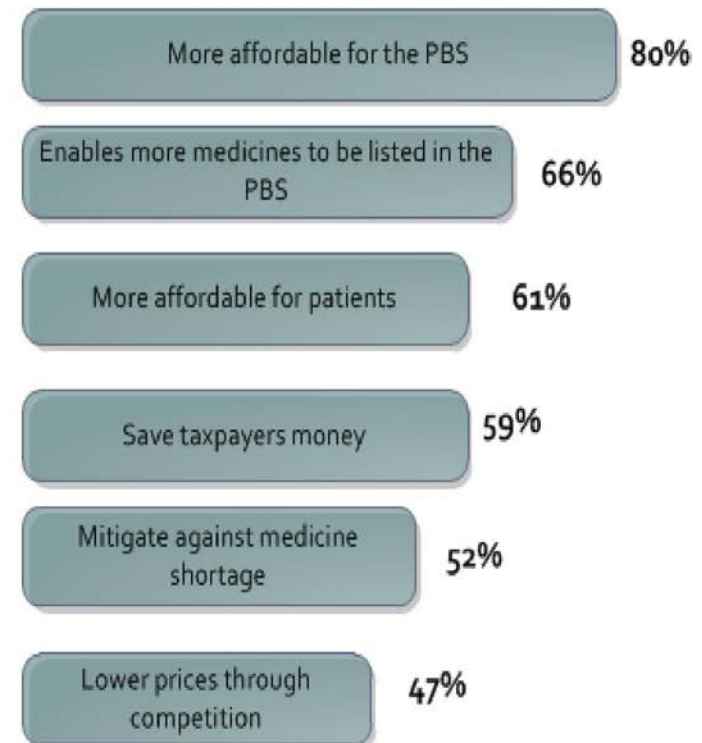
Community Pharmacists

Perceived barriers and benefits to prescribing/dispensing biosimilar medicines (n=100)

Barriers (n=56 of 100 surveyed)



Benefits (n=87 of 100 surveyed)





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RESULTS FOR PATIENTS AND CARERS



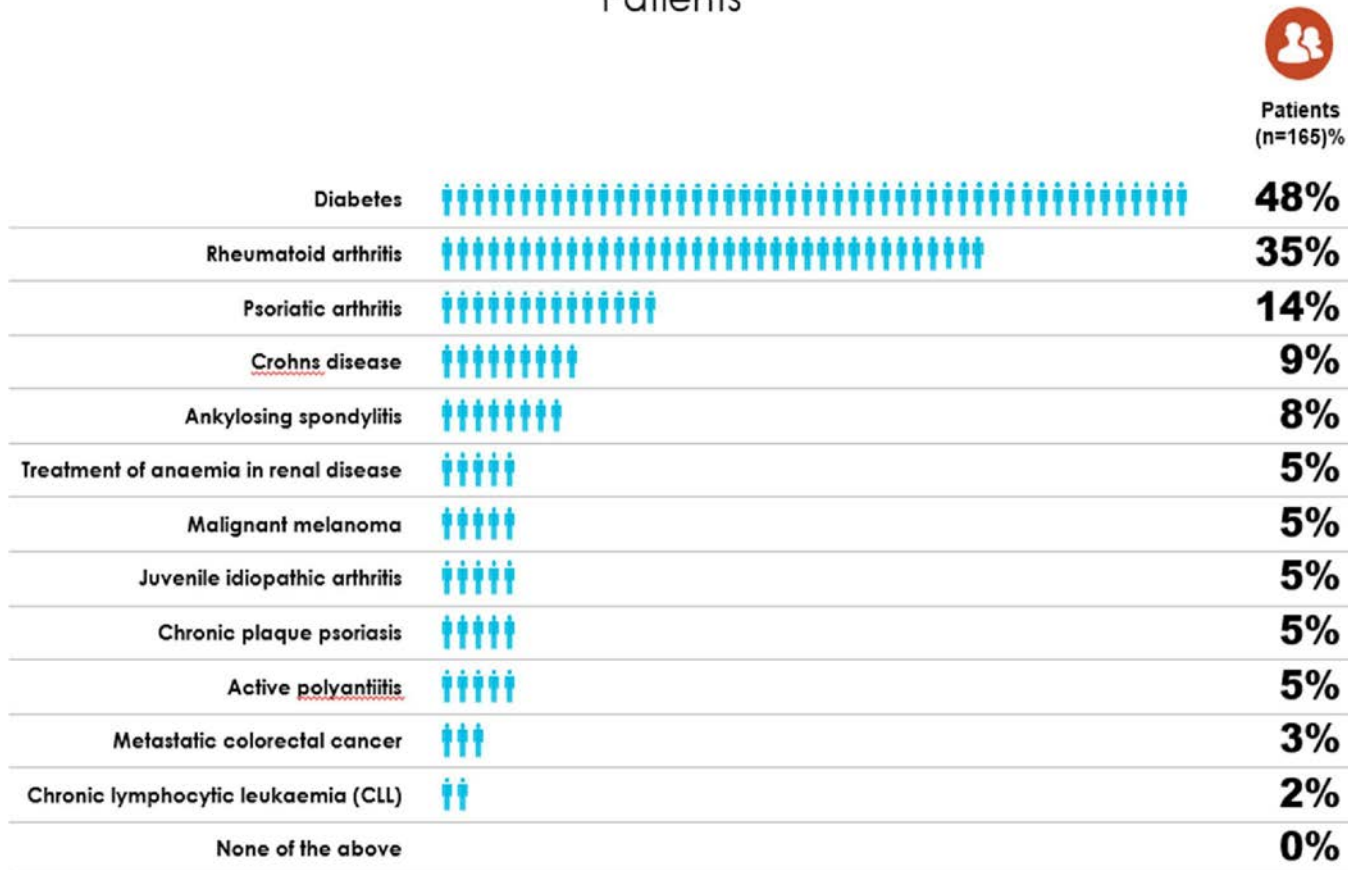
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Profile of Patients Included in the Research Sample

Patients



Sources of Information for Consumers

Biologic Medicines	n=198	Biosimilar Medicines	n=168
GP	28%	GP	24%
General information on line	23%	Pharmacist	17%
Pharmacist	18%	Word of mouth	17%
Word of mouth	18%	Online information from Department of Health	16%
Specialist	17%	General information online	15%
Communication from peak bodies national	17%	Specialist	15%



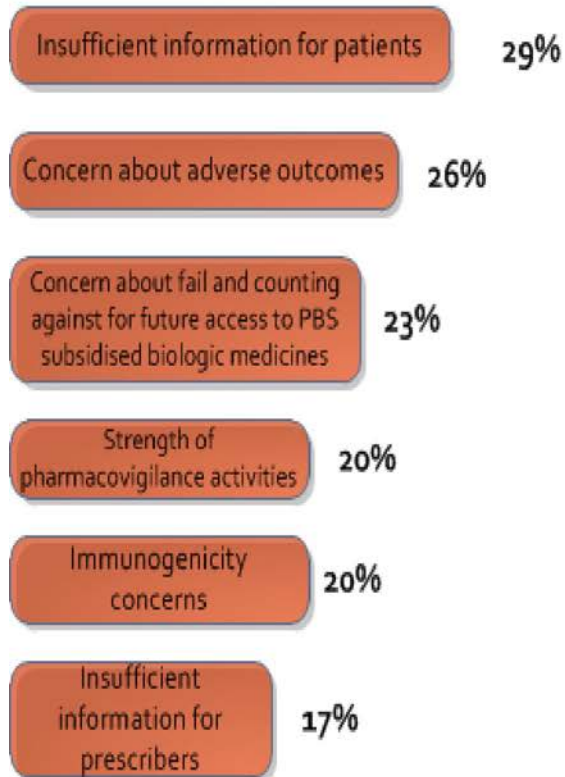
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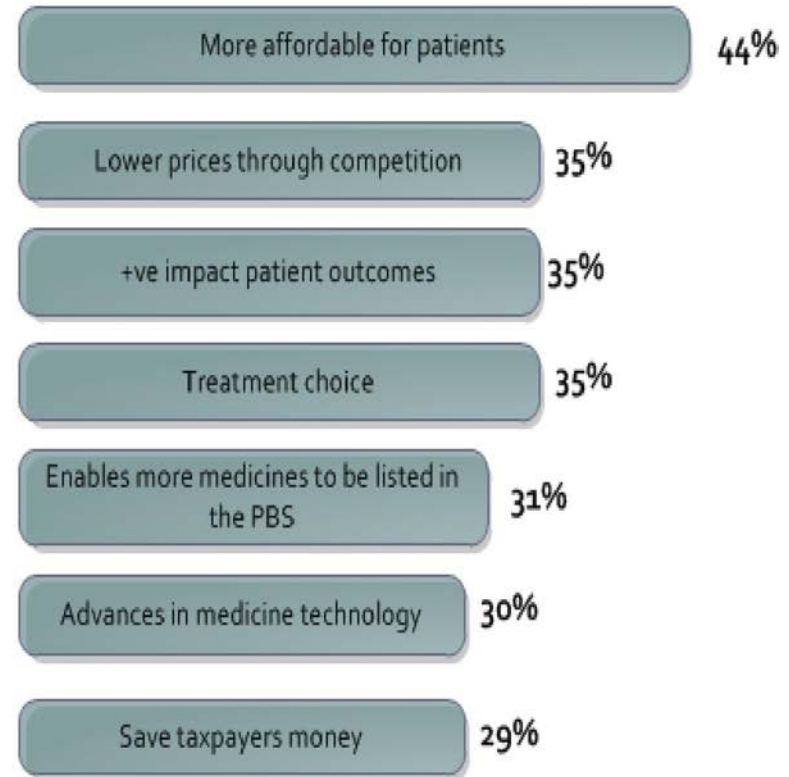
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Perceived Barriers and Benefits for Patients and Carers (n=200)

Barriers (n=35 of 200 surveyed)



Benefits (n=77 of 200 surveyed)



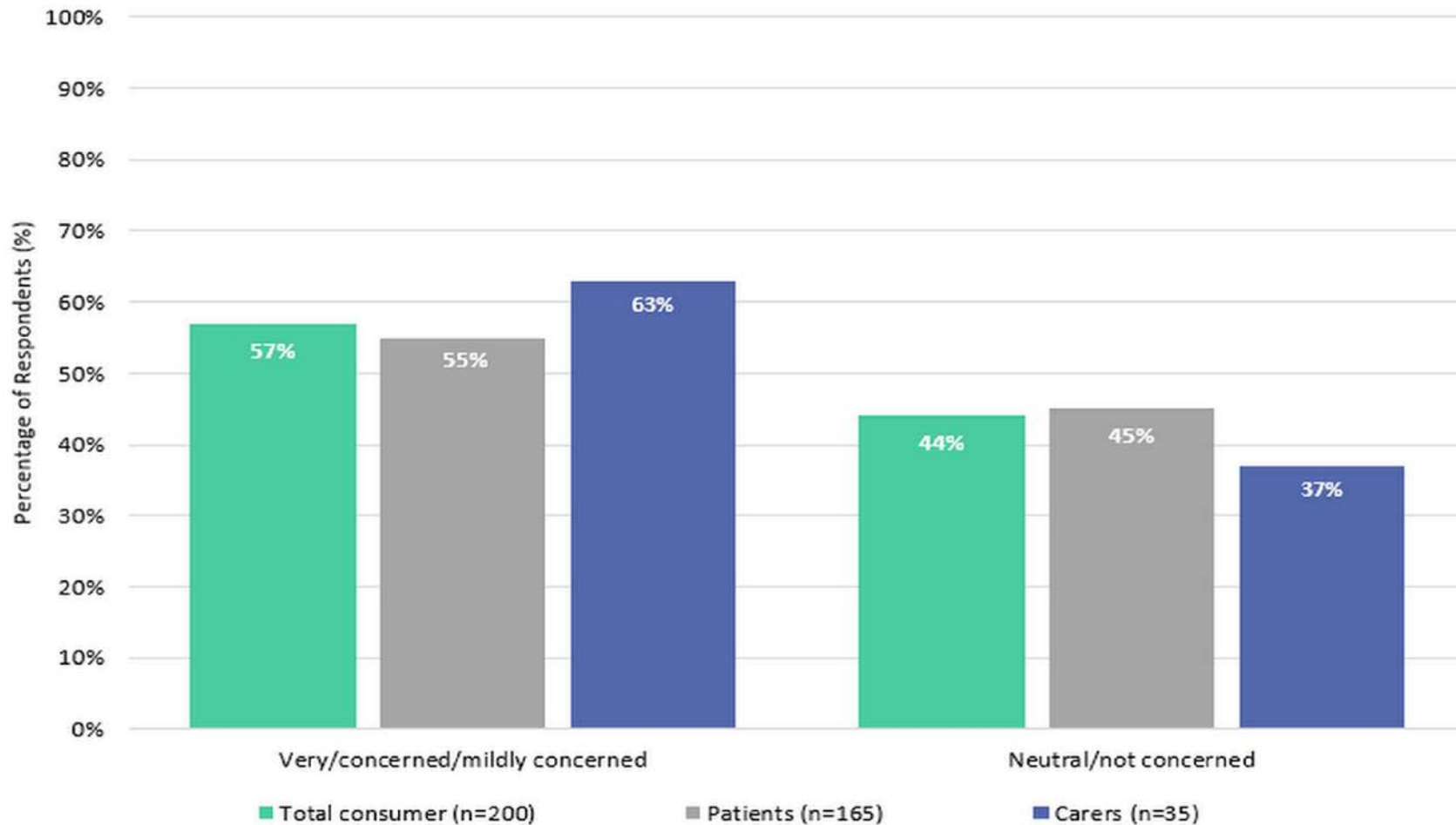


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Consumer confidence with pharmacist offering substitution of a biological with a biosimilar medicine





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Proposed Activities to Increase Awareness

- Online FAQs
- Brochures
- Biosimilars counselling pad
- Presentations at conferences
- Ongoing updating of the literature review and dissemination of the results
- Articles for journals and newsletters
- Engagement of key professional groups
- Online CPD



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Further Information

[Biosimilars Awareness Initiative](#)

Questions

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