

Out-of-pocket costs similar for infliximab, infliximab-dyyb

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(HealthDay)—Under Medicare Part D, out-of-pocket costs are similar

for infliximab and its biosimilar infliximab-dyyb, according to a research letter published in the Sept. 4 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Jinoos Yazdany, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of California in San Francisco, and colleagues calculated the mean total cost and out-of-pocket cost requirements for infliximab-dyyb and infliximab assuming a standard eight-week dosing regimen. These national means were used to project maximum annual out-of-pocket costs if beneficiaries used each drug and no other prescriptions under a standard 2017 Part D benefit. As part of Part D, beneficiaries receive a [discount](#) during the coverage gap for brand-name drugs and biologics but not for biosimilars.

The researchers found that fewer plans covered infliximab-dyyb than infliximab (10 versus 96 percent of the 2,547 plans). The mean total cost per eight-week prescription and annually was modestly lower for infliximab-dyyb (\$2,185 versus \$2,667 and \$14,202 versus \$17,335, respectively). For infliximab-dyyb, plans universally required coinsurance cost-sharing; coinsurance rates were similar to infliximab (26.6 versus 28.4 percent of [drug](#) cost, respectively). Projected annual out-of-pocket costs were higher for infliximab-dyyb than for infliximab without gap discounts (\$5,118 versus \$3,432).

"Although biosimilar gap discounts begin in 2019, infliximab-dyyb may still not significantly reduce Part D beneficiaries' out-of-pocket [costs](#) given its high price and coinsurance cost-sharing similar to infliximab," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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