



# PROVIDER *bulletin*

March 22, 2018

Dear Provider:

Kern Family Health Care strives to provide quality and safe care to its members in accordance with current evidence based guidelines. As a Medicaid managed care plan, this is paired with availing cost effective therapies within those guidelines. Recently new drugs have come to market that are not the conventional Brand/generic relationship that had been established. Biosimilars and what is referred to as Follow On drugs are becoming increasingly more common. They may be viewed in a similar light as multi-branded drugs. Examples of multi-branded drugs: Ventolin HFA, ProAir HFA, Proventil HFA, Prinivil, Zestril. These new drugs often have cost advantages compared to the Brand/originator product. More of these are heading to market. Many biosimilars have already been approved by the FDA, but are currently not available.

Due to technical aspects of brand/generic interchangeability laws, the biosimilar and follow on products are not allowed to be automatically substituted at the pharmacy level. Clinically, however, they deliver the same outcomes.

Below are some of the medications that do not have an actual generic version available on the market, but have a drug available as a biosimilar or Follow On product. KFHC appreciates your assistance in prescribing the following medications to our members.

Basaglar (insulin glargine)  
Admelog (insulin lispro)  
Airduo (fluticasone/salmeterol)  
Epogen (epoetin alfa)  
Granix (tbo-filgrastim)  
Renflexis (infliximab-abda)

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.  
Director of Pharmacy