

**DOCUMENT TITLE:****Maximising the opportunity presented by biosimilar medicines: A national strategy for Wales****CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 7 September 2022**

Please complete your personal details along with the Consultation Pro-forma **and** the Declaration of Interests form below. Please type directly into the forms and save with your initials (or other appropriate identifier) before returning to awtcc@wales.nhs.uk.

Please note: Comments received during consultation are compiled in a report and considered by the development group. Each comment will be addressed and any changes to the document that are made as a result will be noted. The summary report including any comments submitted will be available upon request.

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Name	Alwyn Fortune
Organisation/Company	Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Wales)

CONSULTATION PRO-FORMA**Is there anything you would like to see added to the strategy document?**

1. Whilst fully supportive of the principles contained within the strategy, the importance of effective implementation with particular reference to patient engagement is well recognised. Maintaining patient confidence during “switching” of biosimilar is key to achieving the patient-focus referred to. The barriers to effective implementation are well recognised and referenced in the strategy (ref 1). Adequate resource allocation to pharmacy teams (from the significant savings achievable) is essential to support local clinical leadership and patient understanding. This should be explicitly referred to in the strategy to ensure the capacity is available for effective implementation.
2. Improved clarity and transparency on the balance between national and local decision-making is needed. As this is primarily a cost-driven process (following initial HTA and licensing decisions), the frequency and nature of the review of a “national” best value biosimilar decision if the expectation is that this will be adhered to across NHS Wales. How this is balanced with local practice to deliver any change in preferred choice to patients is important.
3. It is important that effective implementation includes good communication with all key stakeholders (including the pharmaceutical industry). The latter is vital to maintain a supply of the biosimilar(s) of choice and a longer term future pipeline of products within the marketplace.

Is there anything you would like to see removed from the strategy document?

Nothing- other than the issues noted above, the strategy is clear and well presented

Any further comments you may have can be submitted using the table below.

Page number/section number/ line number	Comment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Do you have any business or personal interests that might be material and relevant to the project/document under consideration?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	✓

If **yes**, please give details below: