



# Real-World Adoption Patterns for Adalimumab Biosimilars: A Comparison of Specialty and Other Channels

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ACCREDO SPECIALTY PHARMACY



## BACKGROUND

- + Biosimilar adoption has potential to drive lower costs and improve patient access.
- + Despite multiple FDA-approved options, adalimumab biosimilars accounted for only 1.35% of utilization by the end of 2023.
- + Slow biosimilar conversion impacts healthcare spend and sustainability.
- + Specialty pharmacies are uniquely positioned to close biosimilar conversion gaps impacting patients & prescribers.

## OBJECTIVE

- + Measure impact of a specialty pharmacy program mitigating biosimilar conversion barriers through patient education, adherence support, benefit navigation, and prescriber support.
- + Identify the adoption, discontinuation, and switching patterns of patients prescribed an adalimumab biosimilar.

### BARRIERS

#### PATIENTS

- +Out of pocket cost
- +Pharmacist access
- +Patient confidence
- +Device, stability & administration differences
- +Copay assistance eligibility & enrollment

#### PAYERS

- +Management of drug spend

#### PRESCRIBERS

- +Coverage & preferred product
- +Prior authorization (PA) updates (NDC-based)
- +Adherence, tolerance, disease management
- +Interchangeability

### SPECIALTY PHARMACY SUPPORT FOR BIOSIMILAR COMPLEXITY

- +Oversee multiple NDCs & dosage forms
- +Address interchangeability differences
- +Navigate copay program differences and out of pocket costs
- +Manage coverage rules and PA changes
- +Provide administration training
- +Assess and close knowledge gaps about biosimilars

## METHODS

- + Retrospective analysis of pharmacy claims from a large commercially insured database among those continuously eligible more than 6 months before and 12 months after initiation of the reference drug in 2023.
- + Index date was the first fill of the reference drug with no prior history of its use in the preceding 6 months.
- + The two cohorts assessed consisted of patients initiating therapy at the specialty pharmacy (SP) providing biosimilar conversion support, and those initiating therapy at another channel (other).
- + Bivariate and multivariable analyses were conducted to measure the impact of channel on switching to either a biosimilar or an alternate branded drug to treat inflammatory conditions (IC).
- + Secondary outcomes included adherence using proportion of days covered (PDC) and utilization.

## RESULTS

### Study population

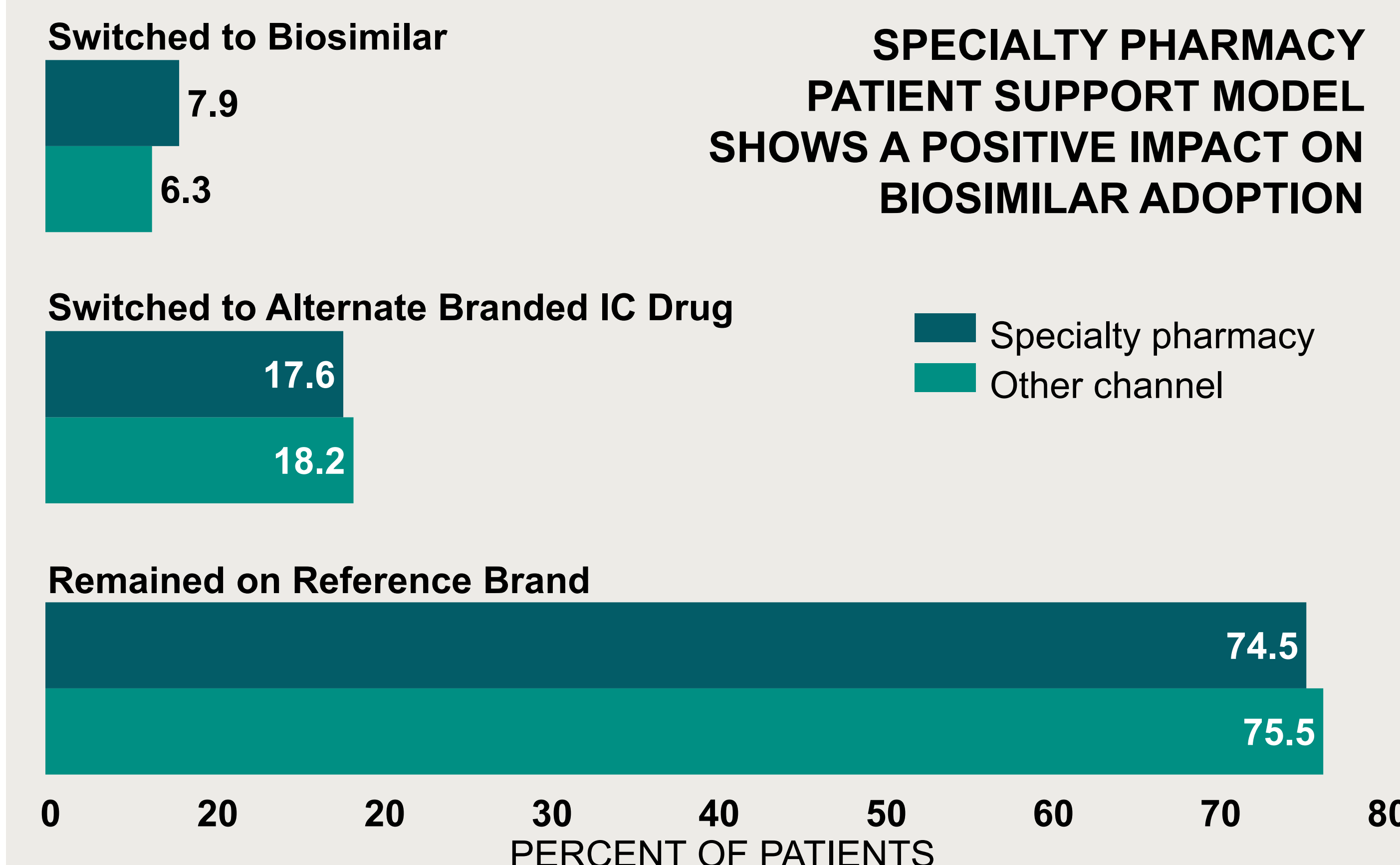
- + Specialty pharmacy cohort included 8,129 patients and other channel cohort included 2,170 patients. Average age was slightly older in other channel.

### Treatment selection at 12-months

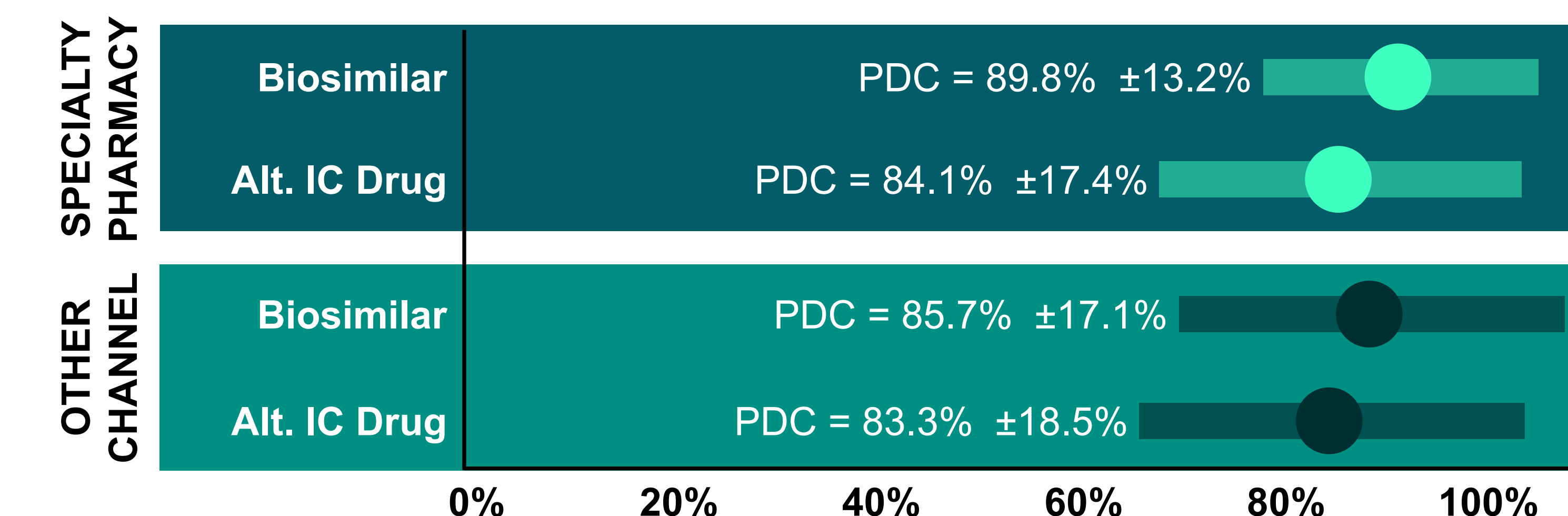
- + On biosimilar at 12 months: 7.9% at specialty pharmacy and 6.3% at other channel (OR 1.01, CI 0.89-1.14).
- + Patients switching to an alternate branded IC drug: 17.6% at Specialty pharmacy and 18.2% at other channel (OR 0.78, CI 0.65-0.95).
- + Patients staying on the reference brand: 74.5% at specialty pharmacy and 75.5% at other channel.

### 12-month adherence (PDC)

- + Biosimilar adopters: specialty pharmacy = 89.8% ( $\pm 13.2\%$ ) vs. other channel 85.7% ( $\pm 17.1\%$ ),  $p < 0.01$
- + Switched to branded IC drug: specialty pharmacy = 84.1% ( $\pm 17.4\%$ ) vs. other channel = 83.3% ( $\pm 18.5\%$ ),  $p=0.40$



## ADHERENCE (PDC) AT 12 MONTHS



## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

	SPECIALTY PHARMACY n= 8,129	OTHER CHANNEL n= 2,170
Age (Mean $\pm$ SD) p-value: 0.04	40.9 (15.2)	41.6 (14.9)
% Male p-value 0.28	39.2%	37.9%

## CONCLUSIONS

A specialty patient support model for biosimilar conversions demonstrated positive impact on:

- + **ADOPTION:** 1.6% higher biosimilar adoption
- + **ADHERENCE:** 89.1% 12-month PDC, 4.1% higher than other dispensing channels
- + **STABILITY:** Patients are 22% less likely to switch to an alternate branded IC drug

Clinical support which includes robust biosimilar education, adherence support and conversion support addressing social, financial, and prescriber barriers can improve conversion and treatment adherence.