Letters To The Editor

A faster approval for a new kind of drug

January 22

The Post was right to call the coming arrival of "biosimilar" therapies a "revolution in much cheaper life-saving drugs" ["A new kind of copycat drug is on track to save lives and money," Business, Jan. 18].

Based on their success in Europe, these products will be as much a game-changer for our health-care system as the arrival of generic drugs was. Managed-care pharmacists who each day address the twin challenges of expanding patient access to pharmaceuticals and managing finite health-care resources will be at the forefront of helping practitioners and patients understand and accept their new biosimilar drug options.

We are confident that the public will rapidly embrace the lower-cost therapies that, while complex, are manufactured to the highest quality standards. That is why we support the Food and Drug Administration's rigorous but abbreviated biosimilar approval process, as well as state laws that would allow pharmacists to automatically substitute "interchangeable" biosimilar products with their branded counterparts, something that is commonly done today with generic drugs.

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