

## Metabolic Coverage Trends

# Here come the insulin biosimilars

The insulin biosimilar market is forecast to get very crowded soon, with a few key players holding the reins. Using DRG Fingertip data from Clarivate, we can look at how formulary coverage has shifted for the reference products.

### Biosimilars waiting in the wings

Among the long-acting insulins, Lantus faces two branded biosimilars:

- **Semglee**, an interchangeable biosimilar developed by Biocon Biologics and distributed by Viartis (Mylan) which launched in 2020 in the U.S.
- **Rezvoglar**, another interchangeable from Eli Lilly which launched in 2023.

The insulin market is also dominated by a few large manufacturers, and after rebates, biosimilars in this space do not pose a significant cost delta. Unbranded versions like glargine-yfgn and semglee-yfgn are covered for 2-4 times the number of lives versus their branded biosimilar competitors.

### Pharmacy substitution and varied PBM approaches will be critical

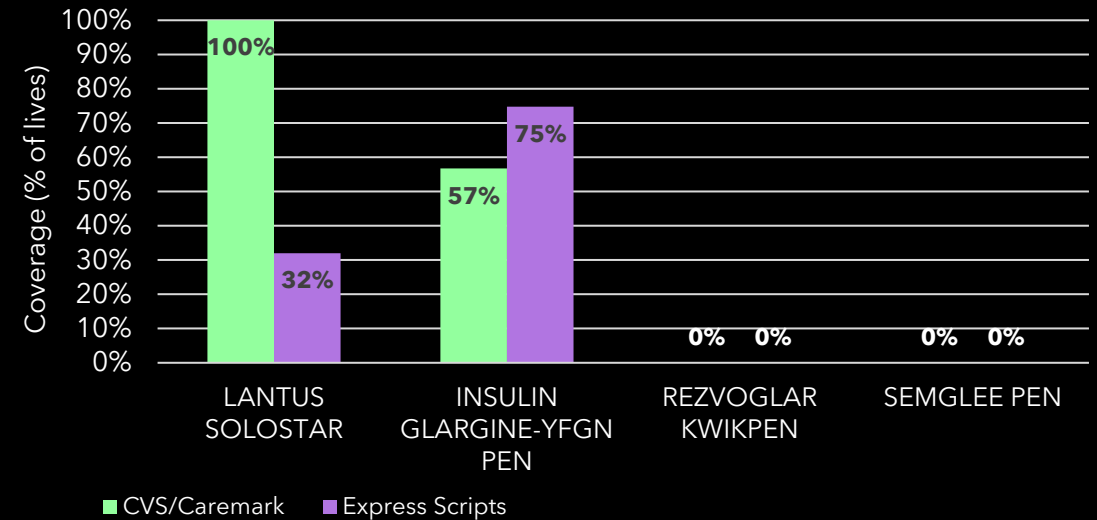
Top PBMs take different approaches to covering the branded insulins on their formularies. While CVS prefers Lantus on its national formularies, it covers the unbranded glargine for more than 50% of formulary lives. By contrast, Express Scripts covers Lantus for only 25% of formulary lives and the generic glargine for 75%. A common thread here: the lack of coverage for the branded biosimilar Semglee.

Stay ahead of shifting trends in biosimilar market access with Clarivate's DRG Fingertip foundations [here](#).

Fingertip Coverage | Fingertip Restrictions | Fingertip Publisher | Fingertip PolicyTrack

DRG Fingertip data shows innovator branded insulin incumbents dominating the coverage landscape, but biosimilars could soon change the picture substantially.

Figure 1. Current coverage differences across two heavyweight pharmacies



## Strategic Implications

- Only a small share of the market is currently captured by biosimilars, but these new entrants are expected to see rapid growth. Unbranded versions will continue to overpower branded versions.
- As rapid-acting insulin biosimilars launch, formulary journey may mimic that of Lantus while clinical substitution can drive drug sales at POS.
- Kristy is well-positioned to be a key player in the U.S. biosimilar market for rapid-acting insulin analogues, as Kristy, one of two newly released biosimilars for Novolog (the other being Merilog), is the first and only interchangeable biosimilar, meaning that pharmacists can substitute Kristy for Novolog without a new prescription.