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HSCA SENDS LETTER TO FDA URGING SAME NAMES FOR BIOSIMILAR DRUGS

HSCA Joins GPhA and Other Leading Healthcare Organizations to Raise Patient Safety Concerns about Distinguishable Names for New Category of Biologic Drugs

Washington, DC (June 30, 2015) – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association ([HSCA](#)) today joined the Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) and other leading healthcare stakeholders in sending a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the agency to ensure biologics and biosimilars share the same International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) to protect patient safety. HSCA President Curtis Rooney released the following statement about the letter and the importance of naming to biosimilar safety:

“Biosimilars have the potential to increase patient access to innovative biologic treatments while also lowering costs for the entire healthcare system, but biosimilars will only be effective if they can be safely prescribed and administered. Allowing distinguishable names between biologic medicines and biosimilars could confuse patients and prescribers and lead to an increase in medical errors. It is critical that biosimilars share the same names to maximize patient safety and make the healthcare supply chain more efficient.”

To read the full letter, click [here](#).

The full list of signatories includes:

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
The Biosimilars Council
California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
CVS Health
Express Scripts
Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC)
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
Premier healthcare alliance
Prime Therapeutics
Public Sector Health Care Roundtable
Rite Aid

UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust
Walgreens

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association, formerly the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association, is a broad-based trade association that represents 14 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HSCA's mission is to advocate on behalf of healthcare group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs. For more information, visit www.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter [@HSCA](https://twitter.com/HSCA).