

IGBA Statement on trade barriers and their impact on healthcare systems and patients' health

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) remains committed to its vision of working to improve patient access to safe, effective, cost-effective, and quality-assured generic and biosimilar medicines.

A key priority for IGBA is to maintain patient access to medicines by advocating for the removal of trade barriers, including tariffs, that hinder the efficient supply and distribution of medicines across regional and international markets. Robust and well-functioning global supply chains are fundamental to ensuring the consistent availability of medicines to patients across the world.

The critical importance of these interconnected supply chains in the generic and biosimilar medicines industry cannot be overstated. IGBA emphasizes that any disruption to the existing supply chains, such as the imposition of undue tariffs or other trade restrictions, could negatively impact patient's access to treatments, exacerbate existing medicine shortages and threaten the sustainability of the generic and biosimilar industry.

Generic and biosimilar medicines play a pivotal role in global healthcare systems, providing access to affordable treatment options for a wide range of diseases. Their production depends on complex, globally integrated supply chains, involving the sourcing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), excipients, and other essential components as well as the manufacturing of finished products across multiple countries. Disruptions to this network, including tariffs, can significantly impact the availability and affordability of these critical life-saving medicines. This is especially concerning as off-patent medicines manufacturers operate in a highly competitive market with a limited capacity to absorb additional costs.

“The global nature of generic and biosimilar medicine supply chains is fundamental to ensuring patient access,” said Susana Almeida, Secretary General of IGBA. “Trade barriers pose a direct threat to this intricate system, potentially leading to reduced access for patients, increased costs, delays, and ultimately, medicine shortages affecting the lives of millions of people. We have already seen the negative impact of supply chain vulnerabilities, and further disruptions could have devastating consequences both for patient's access to life saving treatments and for the sustainability of the healthcare financial system.”



INTERNATIONAL GENERIC AND
BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES ASSOCIATION

The IGBA urges policymakers to recognize the crucial role of global supply chains in ensuring access to affordable medicines worldwide. IGBA strongly encourages trade policies that support economic growth while safeguarding patients' access to life-saving medicines. IGBA remains committed to serving as a bridge for international cooperation and dialogue in an effort to maintain open, resilient and reliable supply chains for generic and biosimilar medicines.

About IGBA

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. The IGBA is at the forefront of preserving sustainable competition within our industry, by stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector; thereby, ensuring millions of patients around the world have access to high quality, pro-competitive medicines. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations, see the IGBA website at: www.igbamedicines.org.