Background

- Biosimilars may control costs and increase access to biologic specialty-drugs.
- Most US biosimilars are available for the following (innovator) products:
  - infliximab, trastuzumab, bevacizumab, rituximab, epoetin alfa.
- In 2020, claims and dollars for specialty agents classified as US beneficiaries within the
  - Background
  - Objective
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusions

Objective

- Use objective data to examine the growth of specialty products:
  - Claims and costs in 2020 were compared with baseline (2016).

Methods

- US beneficiaries within the Workpartners (formerly known as HCMS) Research Reference Database (RRDb) from 2016-2020.
- Workpartners RRDb contains:
  - Medical and pharmaceutical claims for over 3 million employees and dependents about 4.6 million total lives from multiple US private sector employers in the medical, retail, service, manufacturing, transportation, energy, technology, financial, and utility industries.
  - Workpartners
  - Risk
  - Optimal Benefit Design.
- The impact of COVID-19 on claims utilization and absence.
- RRDb contains:
  - Prescription Drug Benefit
  - Medical Benefit
  - Prescription Drug Benefit
  - Medical Benefit

Results

- Over the five-year period, utilization of specialty products cost $301.5 million for 73,611 claims in aggregate (innovator and biosimilar).
- Compared with 2016, 2020 claims increased by 17% and dollars increased by 30%.
- Claims and dollars processed each year under the medical and prescription benefit.

Conclusions

- Health plans have recognized the value/savings and increased the use of biosimilars.
- The shift from the pharmacy to the medical benefit may be due to many of these biosimilars being infused.
- Future analysis should focus on individual biologics (innovator/biosimilar pairs) and explore whether the findings vary by therapeutic area, agent, insurance plan, and/or region of the country.

References


For more information, contact Richard Brook at rcb@bhww.com | Presented at: NASP Annual Meeting & Expo | September 27 - 30, 2021 | Washington, DC | See our other NASP postier “Caregiver Costs Associated with Cancer”