Committee: New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists

**Topic: Approval of Biosimilar Medications**

Sponsored: Karen Berger, Pharm.D., BCPS; Amisha Leimbach, Pharm.D., CJCP

Whereas biologics are complex, protein-based drugs including insulin, monoclonal antibodies to block inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis, and a range of drugs to treat cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other serious diseases.

Whereas, biologics have revolutionized treatment for many conditions, but are often expensive in terms of cost per dose.

Whereas, the development of safe and effective biosimilar medications will increase the affordability and accessibility of biologics

*Resolved that:*

The New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists supports legislation and regulation to allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of biosimilar medications that are also determined by the FDA to be interchangeable and, therefore, may be substituted for the reference product without the intervention of the prescriber. The council also encourages research on the safety, effectiveness, and interchangeability of biosimilar medication and encourages education of pharmacists about biosimilar medications and their appropriate use within hospitals and health systems.

Date: February 5, 2016

By: Karen Berger, Pharm.D., BCPS Amisha Leimbach, Pharm.D., CJCP

Signature of NYSCHP Active Member 1 Signature of NYSCHP Active Member 2