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# Biosimilars: what they are and why they matter

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# What is a biosimilar?

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Once a patent has expired – other companies can create lower-cost versions of medicines. For small molecule medicines, these are called generics and for biological medicines, these are called biosimilars.

2

A biosimilar medicine is therefore a biological medicine which has been shown not to have any clinically meaningful differences from the originator medicine in terms of quality, safety and efficacy.

3

NICE has a biosimilar position statement which sets out our current approach to dealing with these products in published and ongoing appraisals.



# Why do biosimilars matter?

Basic concept is to create headroom for the front end of innovation, by ensuring that savings are realised once the patent of a product expires.



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Savings – opportunity to generate up to £1.5 billion in savings over next 5 years and increase access and uptake for patients – improving population health.



Market Dynamics - drives competition, lowers prices, increases supply resilience and offer a greater choice of affordable biological treatments for patients.

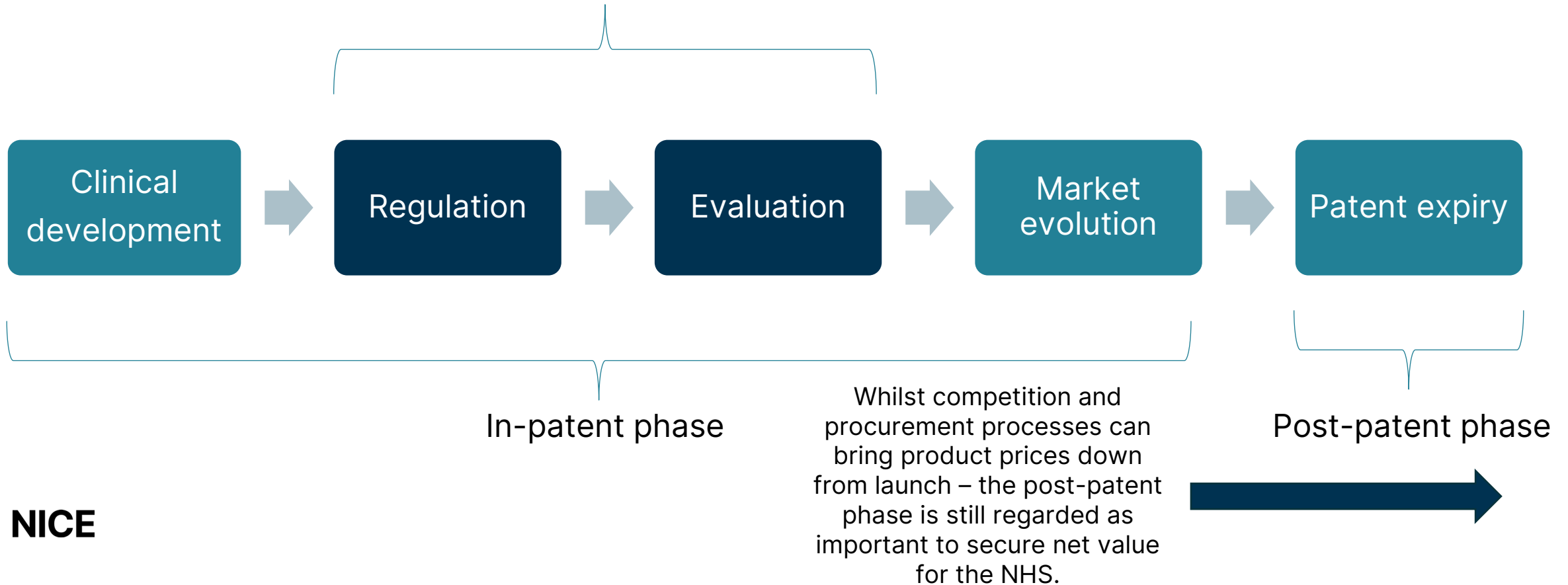


Alignment - biosimilar taskforce with a Steering Committee has been set up to coordinate the work of DHSC, MHRA, NICE and NHSE.



# HTA processes are heavily weighted towards securing rapid access at the front of the product lifecycle – whilst value is being actively considered in both the in-patent and post-patent phase

The focus of HTA is often a snapshot to secure value at the beginning of a product's lifecycle.



# Examples of the impact this is having

NICE



## **Abiraterone for prostate cancer**

NICE's backing of this generic prostate cancer treatment is set to benefit thousands and save the NHS £millions.

## **Bevacizumab for colorectal cancer**

Thousands more people with advanced bowel cancer to benefit after NICE gives green light after availability of biosimilars.