MEDPAC Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

MEETING BRIEF

October 6–7, 2016

Biosimilars in Part D

ISSUE: As more biologics are approved and used by Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part D, both beneficiaries and the Medicare program will face costs that may become increasingly unaffordable.

KEY POINTS: In 2010, the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act established a pathway to approve biosimilars. Biosimilars have the potential to reduce the prices of biologic therapies and improve access for patients who need them. In this session, we discuss certain aspects of Part D law that may affect the pace at which beneficiaries begin to use biosimilars.

ACTION: Commissioners should review and comment on the material.

STAFF CONTACT: Rachel Schmidt and Shinobu Suzuki (202-220-3700).