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# Biosimilars regulations in Saudi Arabia

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# Outline

- Biosimilars Approval Pathway in Saudi Arabia
- Biosimilar products.

# Biosimilars are not generics

- Biosimilars are much larger and complex molecules than small-molecule generics.
- The biosimilar approval pathway is a new initiative in Saudi Arabia with many scientific and administrative challenges

# Biosimilars are not generics II

- There are major challenges to developing a copycat version of a biologic with the same properties and risk/benefit profile as the original
- Due to the complexity of biosimilars, demonstration of **comparability** rather than **bioequivalence** is required

# Biosimilars are not generics III

- A biosimilar is highly similar but not identical to an already market approved biologic product in terms of:
  - Quality
  - Safety
  - And efficacy

# Quality

- Manufacturing Process
- Comparability Exercise
- Physicochemical Characterisation
- Biological Activity



# Safety

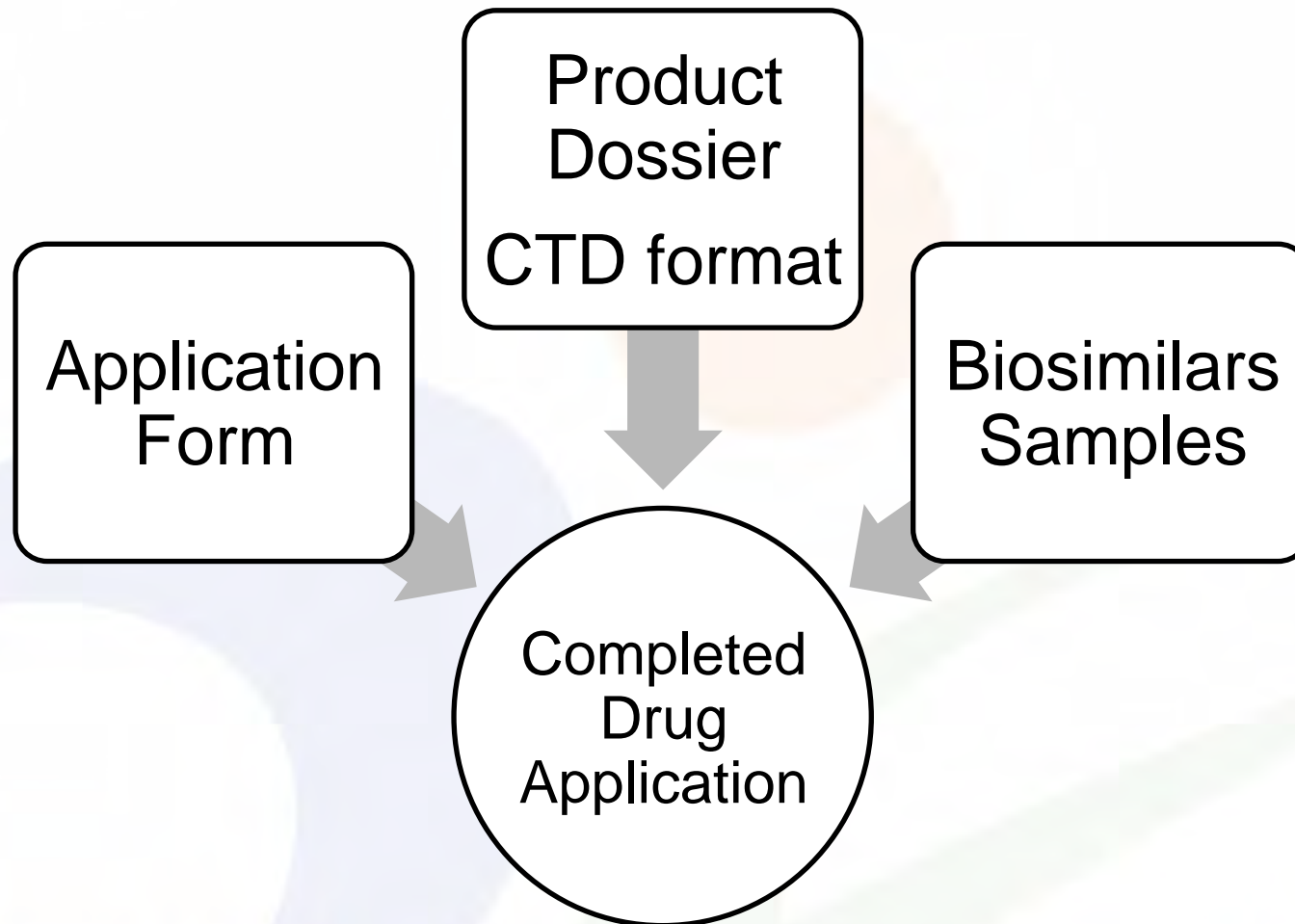
- Analytical Studies
- Comparative *In vitro* studies
- *In vivo* studies



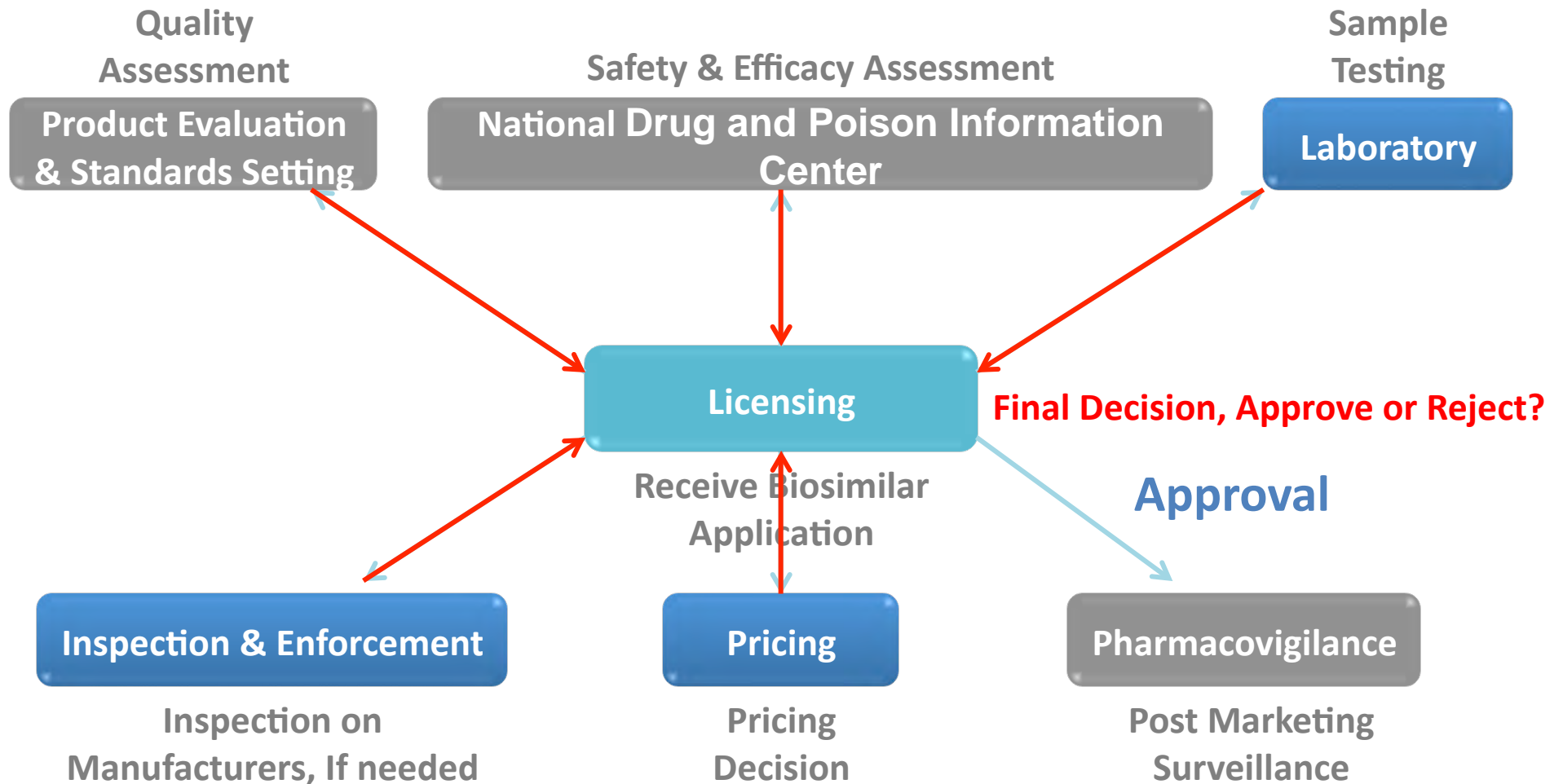
# Efficacy

- Pharmacokinetic studies
- Pharmacodynamic studies
- Efficacy and safety trials, to demonstrate comparability

# Biosimilars Submission Guidance



# Departments involved in the evaluation of biosimilars



# Duration and Fee

Type of Application	Duration	Fee
Biosimilar product	290 days	95,000 SAR About 25,000 USD

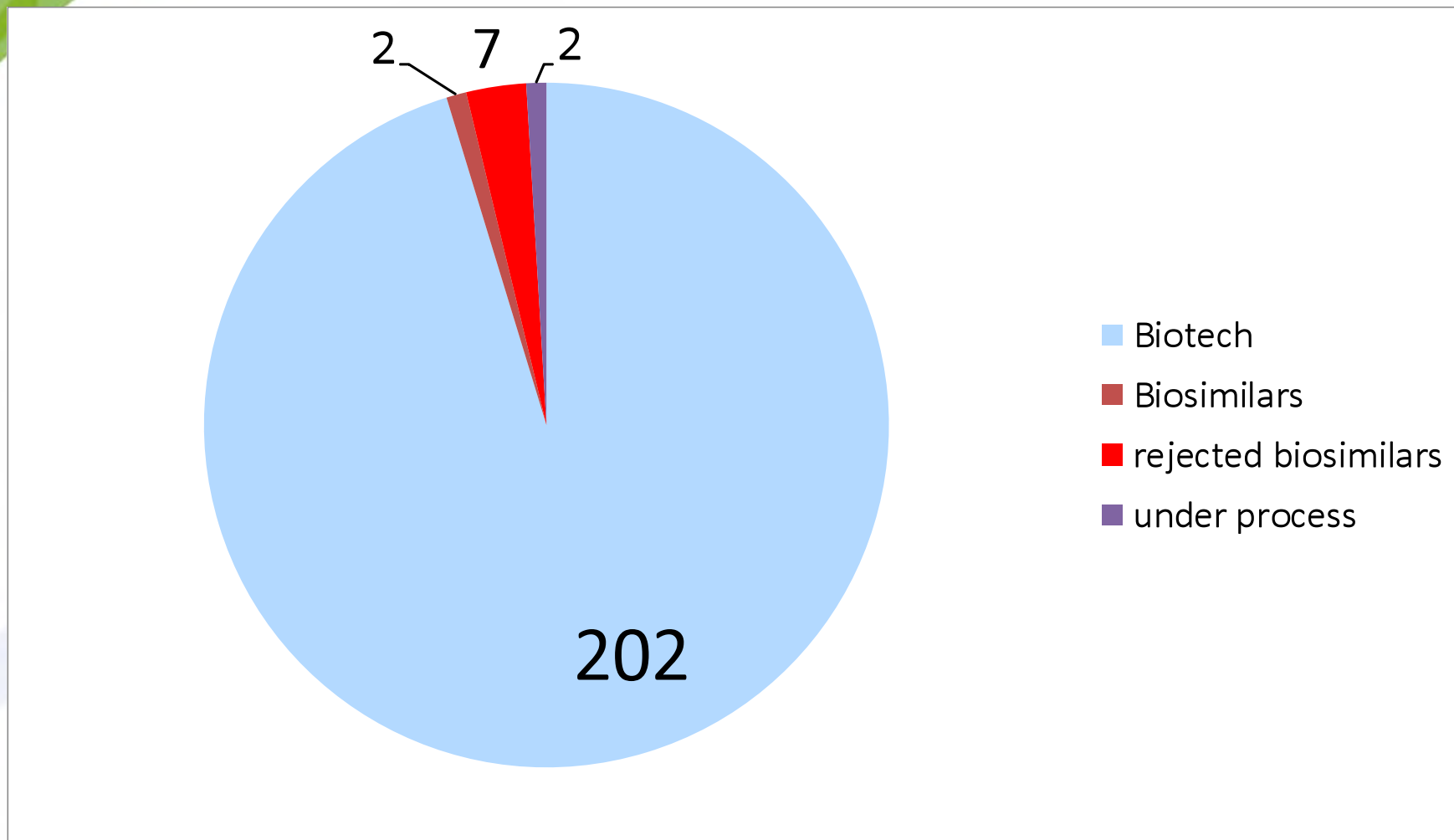
# Dossier Requirements

## Small Molecule Generic

- Demonstration of Bioequivalence
- Modules 1, 2 and 3 in addition to a bioequivalence study

## Biosimilar

- Demonstration of Comparability to RMP
- Modules 1-5 are required
- Expensive



# Approved Products

- Omnitrope: Recombinant Somatropin (RMP is Genotropin)
- The biosimilar is 37% cheaper
- Biosimilar Uptake



# Rejected

- Follitropin alfa: Failure in Clinical comparability
- 6 Insulins: Failures in quality, safety and efficacy

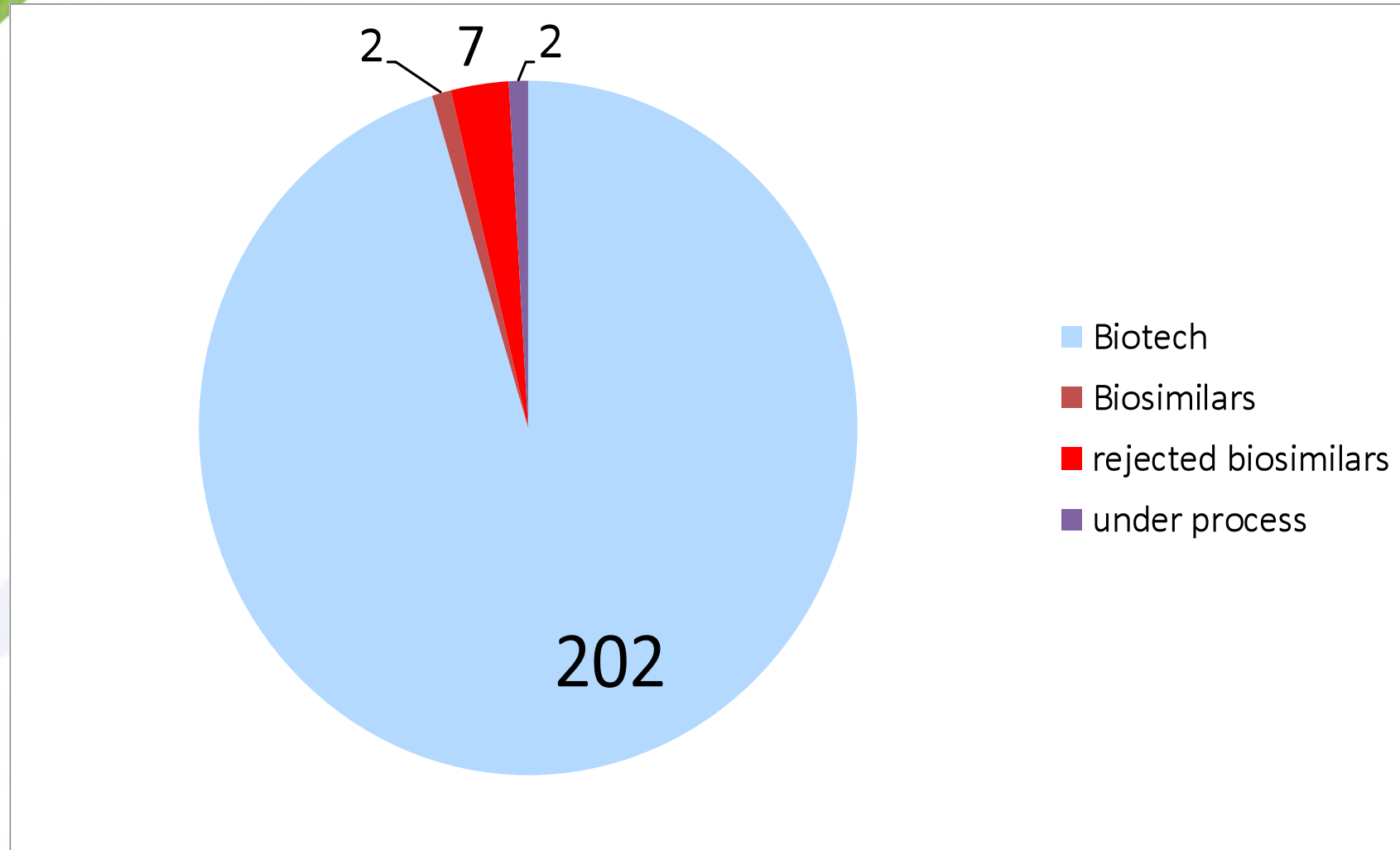
# Under Process

- Infliximab
- Filgrastim

# How much cheaper will biosimilars be?

- The process of bringing a biosimilar to market will likely require many of the strategies used to bring a branded product to market
- This will impact the commercialization of the products and will likely reduce potential cost savings

# Conclusion



# Thank You Questions or Comments

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