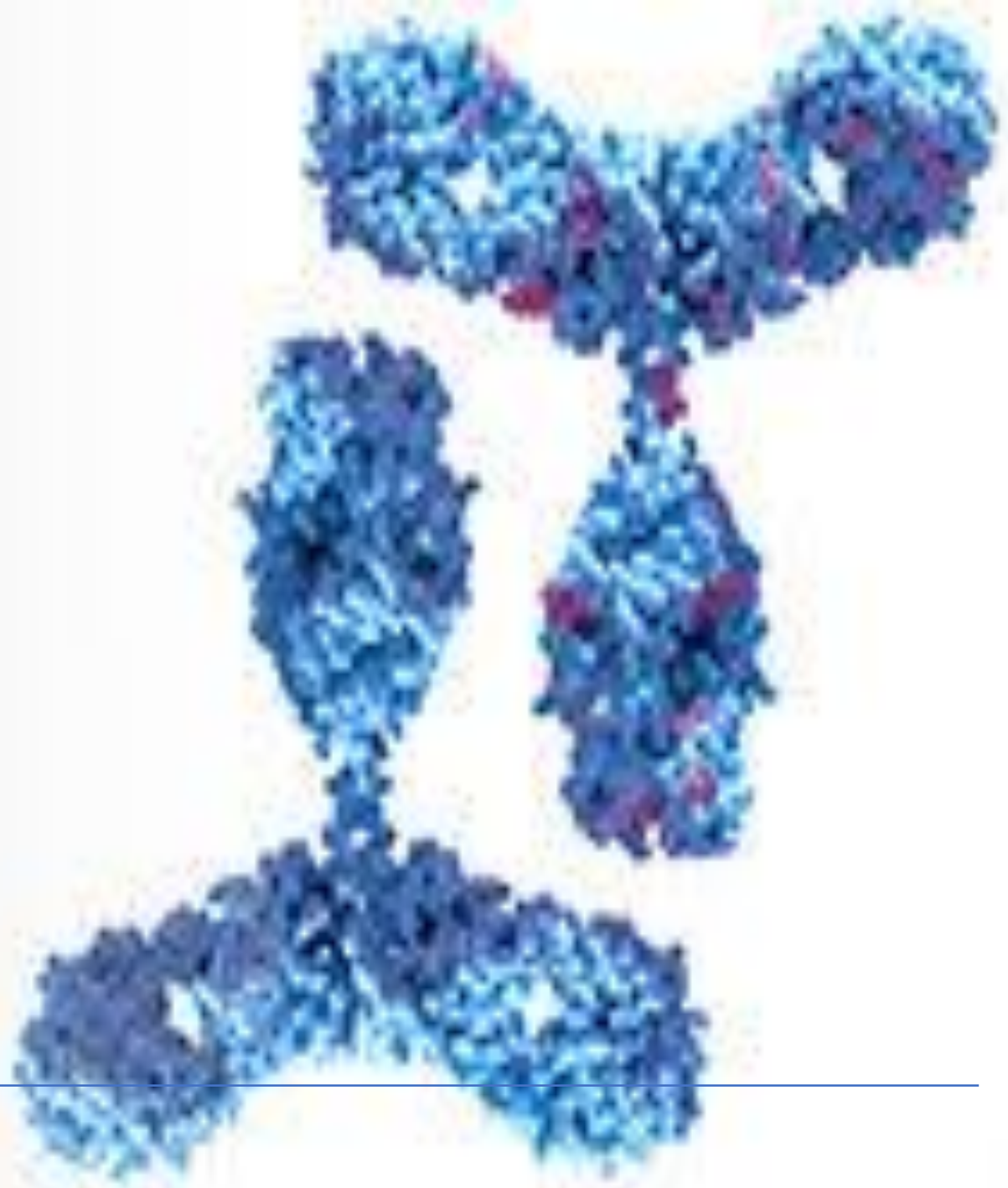


Current biologics policies in Cyprus

Health Insurance Organisation
Olga Pitsillidou, Officer

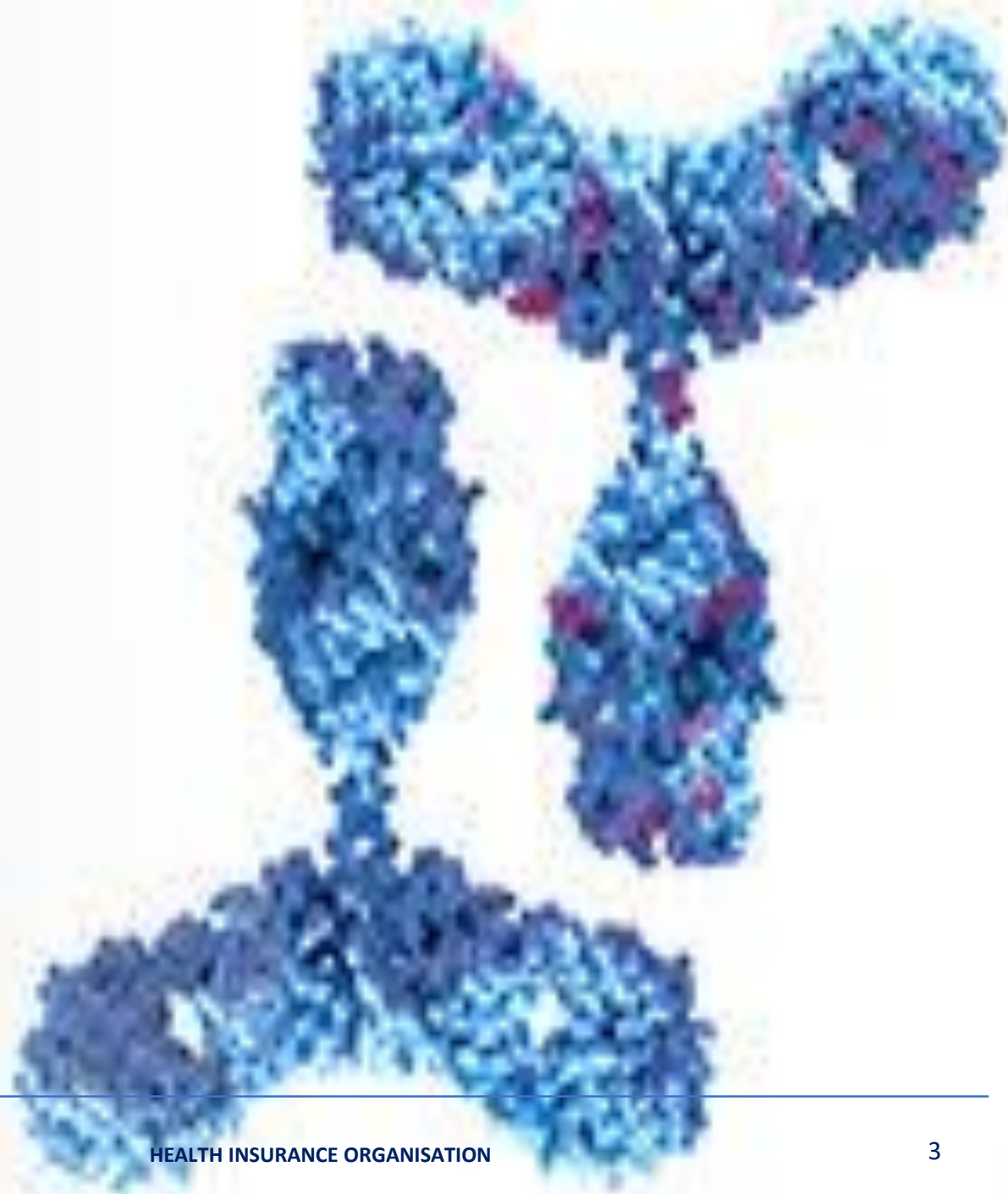


Cyprus's Health Care System

- Cyprus was one of the last EU countries to implement a universal Health coverage plan
- Cyprus is a small island in the easternmost part of the Mediterranean
- Total population approximately 1 million inhabitants
- Introduction of GHS in June 2019
- Full GHS implementation September 2020
- Transition towards established state impacted by
 - COVID
 - Brexit

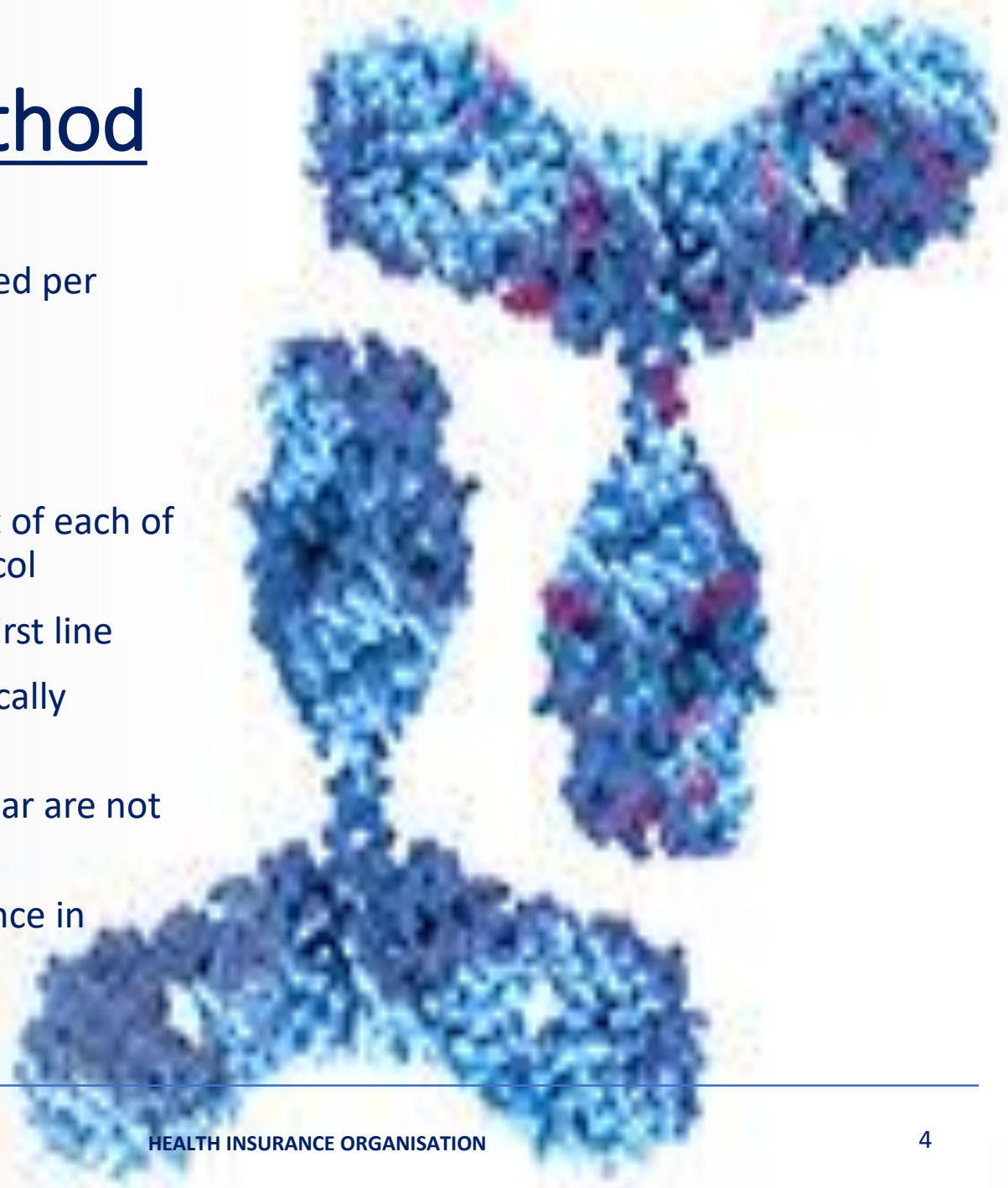
Biologics in Cyprus

- Current pricing policy for biologics – PPP setting
 - ERP
 - 10 reference countries
- Biosimilars are considered original products in Cyprus
- Procurement via central tendering
- Dispensing only by hospital pharmacies
- No interchangeability status
- Switching only by prescriber
- Substitution not permitted

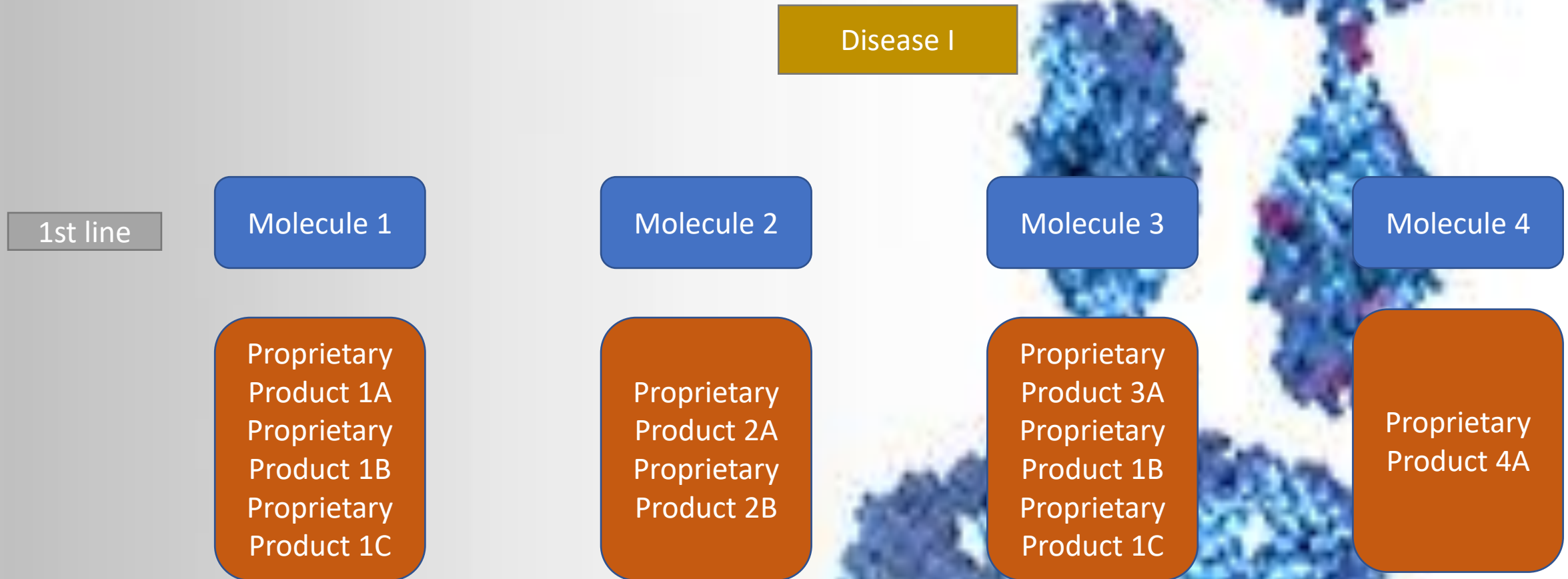


Biologics procurement method

- Biologic products are procured centrally via tenders issued per disease
- Tenders are awarded to the single lowest bidder
- The lowest bidder is awarded first line option status
- Consecutive line: the lowest bidding proprietary product of each of the remaining molecules indicated by therapeutic protocol
- Biologics naive patients will initiate treatment with the first line
- Transition to subsequent treatment lines has to be medically justified
- Patients on treatment with originator or specific biosimilar are not switched
- Tender expiration results in changes in treatment sequence in cases a different molecule offers the lowest bid



Schematic Representation of therapeutic protocol before the tender call



Schematic Representation of reimbursement protocol after tender closure

1st line

Proprietary Product 1D (Molecule 1) – lowest bidder in tender:
All treatment naive patients are initiated on this product

Disease I

2nd line

Proprietary Product 2B (Molecule 2) – not the lowest bidder in the tender. Lowest bidder for the specific molecule

Transition to this product has to be justified according to GHS requirements

Proprietary Product 3C (Molecule 3) – not the lowest bidder in the tender. Lowest bidder for the specific molecule

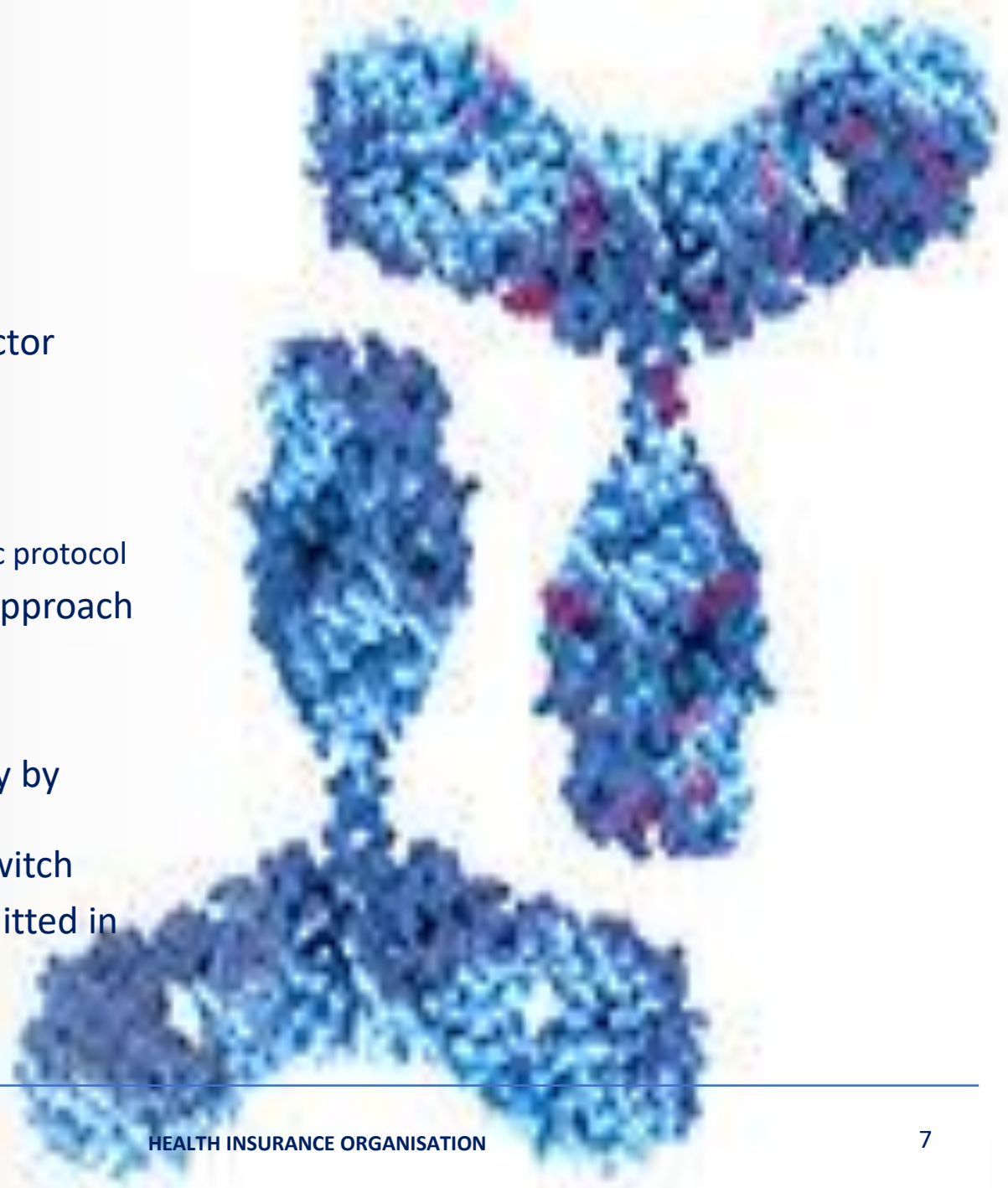
Transition to this product has to be justified according to GHS requirements

Proprietary Product 4A (Molecule 4) – not the lowest bidder in the tender. Lowest bidder for the specific molecule

Transition to this product has to be justified according to GHS requirements

Current Policy

- The central tender approach was used by the public sector before the introduction of the GHS
- The GHS continues using the same method
 - Efficient
 - creates price competition
 - provides all molecules indicated by the country's therapeutic protocol
- The HIO is investigating the necessity of changing this approach
- Interchangeability and ease of switching
- Small market size
- Switching from an originator to a biosimilar is done only by prescribers
- Prescribers are not currently confident in making the switch
- Pharmacy level substitution of biosimilars is not a permitted in Cyprus





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