

Public Policy Statement: Medicines Patent Pool

Merck has demonstrated its commitment to improved access to HIV medicines through longstanding efforts over many years, including differential pricing, voluntary licensing, public-private partnerships, philanthropic programs, and continued research and development efforts in HIV.

Merck's focus has been on implementing our access strategy for ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) in Low-Income countries and sub-Saharan Africa as part of our ongoing efforts to further enhance global access to our HIV medicines. Through this comprehensive, innovative strategy, Merck is bringing ISENTRESS to the areas of greatest need at a significantly reduced price, while facilitating generic competition in these areas of greatest need through voluntary licenses. Merck is engaging on the ground locally to provide support for healthcare providers and patients through ongoing medical education and pharmacovigilance.

Merck firmly believes that the engagement of all stakeholders, including governments, donors, civil society, and industry, is needed to address the multiple issues impacting access to healthcare. In certain instances, Merck may work with multi-lateral mechanisms when they offer additional opportunity to enhance access beyond those of Merck's ongoing access strategies in the areas of greatest disease burden and where governments have the least ability to finance healthcare.

Pediatric HIV treatment is an area where multi-sector efforts are needed to facilitate development of appropriate combination formulations and to promote manufacturing and supply of these pediatric formulations.

Therefore, Merck supports the UNITAID, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) and Medicines Patent Pool Foundation led multi-stakeholder initiative which seeks to increase access to pediatric HIV treatment through the development of improved or new pediatric formulations of HIV medicines. In support of this initiative, Merck has entered into negotiations with the Medicines Patent Pool regarding potential licenses on the pediatric formulations of raltegravir.

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