


medicines
patent
pool

IMPROVING ACCESS PROMOTING INNOVATION

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white, circular pill bottle cap. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a laboratory or medical setting with blue and white tones. The image is partially obscured by a large white curved shape on the left side of the page.

The Medicines Patent Pool is improving access and promoting innovation in the fields of HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis treatment.

THE NEED

Combined, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis kill more than two million people annually in the developing world. Approximately 72% of the up to 71 million people suffering from hepatitis C live in low- and middle-income countries.¹ The right medicines, in the right formulations and at the right price, will prolong and save lives.

¹ UNAIDS and World Health Organization estimates



ABOUT THE MEDICINES PATENT POOL

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) is a United Nations-backed public health organisation working to improve access to affordable and appropriate HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis medicines in low- and middle-income countries. Unitaid founded the MPP in 2010 to contribute to the HIV response and expanded its mandate to hepatitis C and tuberculosis in November 2015. To date, Unitaid serves as the MPP's sole funder for these activities.

The MPP partners with a range of stakeholders through a voluntary licensing and patent pooling model.

HOW THE MPP WORKS

The MPP works to address one key challenge in ensuring equitable distribution of treatment in low- and middle-income countries – the need to share patents.

Patents reward innovation and, if licensed widely, they can spur the development of a competitive market and further innovation to meet specific developing country needs.

The Medicines Patent Pool negotiates with patent holders for licences on HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis medicines. These licences permit generic pharmaceutical companies to manufacture and distribute patented medicines in developing countries. The licences also provide the freedom to develop new treatments such as fixed-dose combinations – single pills composed of several medicines – and special formulations for children. Competition between low-cost manufacturers brings prices down.

The terms and conditions in MPP licences seek to improve treatment options for the broadest number of people living in developing countries.

Current features include:

Wide GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

up to 131 countries covered in MPP's licences

FLEXIBILITY (non-exclusive, unrestricted)

to encourage generic competition

DISCLOSURE

of company patent information

WAIVERS

for data exclusivity

COMPATIBLE

with the use of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement flexibilities

Unprecedented in TRANSPARENCY

The full text of all licences are published on the MPP website (www.medicinespatentpool.org)

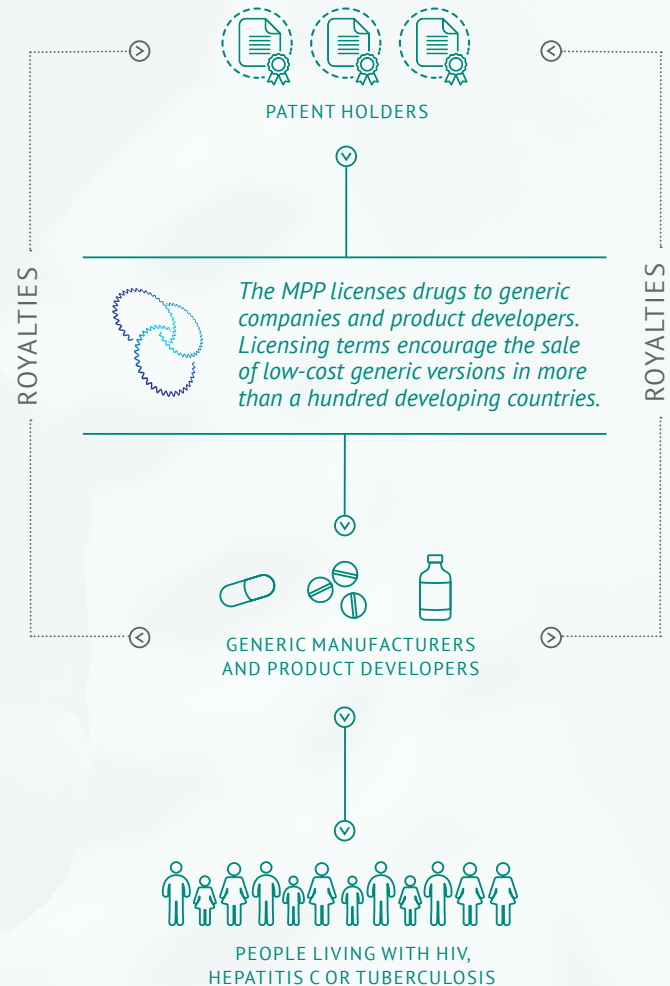
BENEFITING ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The MPP offers a model that works for all stakeholders. Patent holders have an effective way to share patents of their innovative products in resource-poor settings and may be compensated by a fair royalty. Generic manufacturers are producing affordable new medicines more easily and rapidly. Donors and developing country governments are stretching their budgets further to treat many more people.

Most importantly, people are gaining faster access to quality, life-saving treatment.

"We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments [...] welcome the broadening of the scope of work of the Medicines Patent Pool, hosted by Unitaid, to promote voluntary partnerships to address hepatitis C and tuberculosis, reflecting the importance of integrating the AIDS response into the broader global health agenda."

United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast-Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the Epidemic by 2030 – 7 June 2016



RESULTS

The MPP collaborates closely with generic producers and product developers through its licence management programme to ensure its licences result in the rapid distribution of quality, effective medicines at affordable prices. The organisation's current portfolio includes World Health Organization (WHO)'s recommended first-line and second-line HIV treatments for adults, adolescents and children as well as treatments on the WHO Essential Medicines List. To date, companies working through the MPP have distributed 6.2 billion doses of low-cost medicines to developing countries.

In addition, the MPP has strategic partnerships with TB Alliance and other organisations to ensure broad access of future developed regimens in resource-limited settings.



SHARING EXPERTISE

PRIORITISATION

The MPP works with the WHO and other public health experts to prioritise products for licensing. Priority reports guide the MPP in its strategy of targeting the most appropriate treatments and are updated on an annual basis.

FORECASTING

The MPP and the WHO jointly prepare forecasts on the use of antiretroviral medicines in low- and middle-income countries. Among other analyses, these forecasts provide broad support to the HIV community and help guide MPP industry partners on access strategies, prioritisation and capacity-building. Forecasts also assist policymakers, procurement agencies, regulatory agencies and other public health stakeholders in planning and preparing their policies.

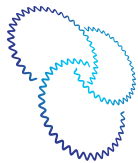


As part of MPP's mission to improve patent transparency, in 2016 the MPP launched its new Medicines Patents and Licences Database, a resource for information on the intellectual property status of priority medicines in developing countries. MedsPaL includes patent and licensing data on HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis treatments covering 6,800 national patent applications in more than 110 low- and middle-income countries.
www.medspal.org

In September 2015, the international community adopted new Sustainable Development Goals calling for efforts to combat hepatitis and end the HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics by 2030. Along with other interventions, voluntary licensing and patent pooling can help support efforts to meet new health targets through the delivery of better-adapted, affordable treatments to low- and middle-income countries.

The United Nations General Assembly, the World Health Organization and its member states, and the G8 have endorsed the Medicines Patent Pool as an important mechanism for promoting innovation and access.

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The MPP was founded
and remains funded by
Unitaid.

