



Roche Drug Donations Policy

Roche is a research based company whose primary goal is the discovery and delivery of innovative new medicines and diagnostics.

As a company with finite resources, Roche believes its efforts to increase access to its medicines globally should be concentrated where they will benefit those in greatest need.

Roche therefore prioritises its initiatives towards a broad policy level, designed to have the greatest potential to benefit people in the Least Developed Countries of the world (as defined by the United Nations), and in the instance of HIV/AIDS, extended to the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

Drug Donations Policy

Roche is committed to the development of long term, sustainable solutions to the challenges relating to the availability of its medicines in the Least Developed Countries.

Drug donations do not form a central component of our policies to increase sustainable access to our medicines globally. All requests that Roche receives from charitable organisations seeking drug donations will be evaluated on an individual basis and be dependent on a number of key criteria being met, as outlined by the WHO guidelines for drug donations.

Ethics

Providing therapy for chronic diseases such as HIV/AIDS is totally different to delivering emergency aid such as food, painkillers or vaccines. As HIV therapy is lifelong, we consider it unethical for us to make a donation of HIV medicines without the guarantee of continuous supply for each recipient's entire life. This is equally applicable for other medicines used in chronic conditions.

Roche is committed to comply with the WHO guidelines on drug donations:

http://www.euro.who.int/document/EHA/PAR_Donate_Guidelines.pdf

Patent and pricing policies

Roche seeks to make its medicines more accessible to all the Least Developed Countries of the world. Therefore Roche has pioneered one of the most innovative and transparent patent policies for all its medicines in the world's Least Developed Countries:

- No patents for any of Roche's medicines – across all disease areas – will be filed in the Least Developed Countries of the world. Nor will Roche enforce existing patents or patents that have been licensed-in in these countries.

To improve access to those most in urgent need of HIV/AIDS medicines, Roche has developed a specific HIV/AIDS patent policy:

- Roche will not file patents on new ARV drugs in Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan Africa
- Roche will not take action against generic versions of its antiretroviral therapies in Least Developed Countries and in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, Roche publicises the fact that the company holds no patents for its malaria treatments – Fansidar[®] (sulfadoxine/ pyrimethamine) or Lariam[®] (mefloquine) - in the Least Developed Countries or sub-Saharan Africa.

Roche also has a pricing policy for its HIV protease inhibitors to help increase access to these medicines. Roche's two HIV protease inhibitors, Viracept[®] (nelfinavir) and Invirase[®] (saquinavir), and are made available at no profit to the Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan Africa. The Roche no profit prices are similar or lower than those of generic versions.

Roche has thus removed both patents and profits as barriers to increasing access to its two HIV protease inhibitor medicines in these countries.

Roche remains committed to continuing its efforts to research and deliver innovative new medicines as well as to transparent policies to increase global access to our medicines, in order to make a real difference in the lives of as many individuals as possible. Roche will do this in a responsible, long-term viable and ethical manner.