

Generic drug breakthrough

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UNITAID, the international finance mechanism for drugs to treat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, has given the go-ahead for a patent pool for antiretroviral drugs, a mechanism to promote wider licensing of patented drugs to generic manufacturers, in order to lower the cost of treatment.

The patent pool will allow generic companies to make lower-cost versions of widely patented new medicines by creating a common space for patent holders to license their technology in exchange for royalties. This will spur competition and further bring down the price of vital new and effective medicines, says UNITAID.

The move will particularly benefit those in resource-poor settings but will also be good for people in Australia who are currently importing generic [antiretrovirals](#) [1]A medication or other substance which is active against retroviruses such as HIV. because they are not covered by Medicare access to the [PBS](#) [2][Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme] The federal government program which subsidises medication costs in Australia. Anti-HIV drugs are part of a special part of the PBS called Section 100 (S100) which is used for expensive, highly specialised drugs..

- [Treating HIV](#)
- [Defeating HIV](#)
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- [The global HIV epidemic](#)

Links:

[1] <http://www.napwa.org.au/glossary/term/122>

[2] <http://www.napwa.org.au/glossary/term/121>