

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP ON AIDS 

Call for evidence

APPG inquiry: Scaling up coverage of ARVs – a supply side study

Deadline for submissions: 9am Monday 23rd February 2009

The All Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS is conducting an inquiry on the supply of affordable anti-retroviral medicines (ARVs), in view of Government commitments to Universal Access by 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals.

The aim of the inquiry is to sensitise MPs and Members of the House of Lords to the issues that determine the supply of ARVs, and mobilise political support for workable solutions that can contribute to achieving these Government commitments and sustain universal access to medicines beyond them. Findings from the enquiry will also help inform a Parliamentary visit to key institutions such as UNITAID and the WHO in Geneva in April.

The Group recognises that the supply of affordable ARVs to developing countries is only one part of achieving access to HIV medicines and that, for example, the capacity of health systems to test for and diagnose HIV, as well as to distribute medicines is equally important. It also recognises that treatment alone does not offer a solution to the HIV/AIDS crisis and that prevention must be a key focus of global efforts. These other areas of concern have been, and will continue to be, featured in the APPG's work.

Finally, the questions below, and we hope some of the answers to them, may be relevant to other medicines. Access to medicines for TB and other common co-infections are of particular interest to us. If you wish to make any points about medicines for these other diseases, please do so in question twelve.

Submitting written evidence

- Please feel free to leave blanks and only answer the sections that are most relevant to your expertise.
- There should only be one response per organisation.
- Please keep total response to a **maximum of 4000 words**.
- Please email your response in MS Word or Rich text format **using the title 'written evidence'** in the subject line to oakeshottv@parliament.uk by **9am Monday 23rd February 2009**.
- Written evidence may be posted on the APPG website or featured in future reports. If this isn't acceptable to the organisation or person submitting the written evidence, this should be clearly stated in a covering email.

Your name: _____

Your organisation: _____

Your job title: _____

Contact email: _____

Full postal address: _____

Please email your response to oakeshottv@parliament.uk by 9am on Monday 23rd February 2009

Questions

1. How do you think demand for HIV drugs in developing countries will change in the next decade?
2. What can be done to bring the manufacturing costs of drugs (whether generic or branded) down?
3. How can we reward investment in the development of *existing* drugs whilst ensuring that drugs are affordable for all those who need them?
4. How can we incentivise R&D for *new* HIV drugs, particularly those optimised for use in developing countries (e.g. stable in high temperatures, long shelf lives, no dietary requirements for taking tablets etc), whilst keeping prices low?
5. What are the barriers to making paediatric drugs widely available?
6. Do you think a patent pool has the potential to increase access to affordable ARVs, and what are the main barriers to the establishment of a patent pool?
7. What barriers are there for countries to make use of TRIPS flexibilities to manufacture or import generic drugs?
8. What can be done to bring the time and cost of the drugs registration and approval process in developing countries down?
9. What can be done to ensure that the drugs available to people in developing countries conform to the latest WHO treatment recommendations?

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10. What and how significant is the impact of counterfeit drugs on access to good quality affordable ARVs in developing countries?

11. What additional or *different* role could the following organisations play (as opposed to what they are currently doing) to increase access to affordable HIV drugs? Please only comment in the areas where you have particular knowledge:

- The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria
- Private Foundations such as the Clinton Foundation/ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- PEPFAR
- Pharmaceutical companies
- UNICEF
- UNAIDS
- WHO
- UNITAID
- WTO
- Least Developed Country Governments
- Middle Income Country Governments
- Academic/ research institutions
- The UK Government / DFID
- NGOs

12. Any other comments