

GOVERNANCE

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

Conference «Access to Life-Saving Medication – Innovative Solutions» | September 7 2006 | UBS Training- and Conference Center Basel

Barriers to access to medication. The example of AIDS.

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This presentation will focus on HIV/AIDS, where the lack of access to newer ARVs in developing countries is highly problematic. The fact that there are few generic versions of newer ARVs has an impact on their price and availability. In the absence of competition, companies offer so-called differential pricing systems for their products, whereby companies determine which countries qualify for reduced prices. However, these pricing mechanisms come with restrictions and therefore only partially address the problem.

Fernando Pascual will provide examples based on drugs recommended by WHO in their latest antiretroviral treatment guidelines, illustrating price differences between countries and different products. Special attention will be given to the lack of availability of drugs at country level, even after companies have announced that their products will be offered at differential prices.

He will also analyse the impact of intellectual property protection in countries with production capacity, as this is one of the root causes for the lack of new generics.