UK Policy considerations on increasing access to medicines for the poor in developing countries.

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
International Development Targets

■ Poverty:
  – Reduce by 50% the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015

■ Health and Health Systems
  – Reduce maternal mortality rate by \( \frac{3}{4} \) by 2015
  – Reduce infant mortality rate by \( \frac{2}{3} \) by 2015
  – Universal access to reproductive health care through primary health systems no later than 2015

■ Disease Specific
  – 25% reduction in HIV infection among 15-24 year olds in worst affected countries
  – Malaria, TB: Reduce burden by 50% by 2010
Commitment

- To poverty reduction, to health, to access to essential commodities
- Large Development Budget
  - from 0.21 - 0.32% of GDP
  - total FY 1999 £2.53 billion
  - Health spend 13%
  - Health systems development
  - Increasingly direct support to Poverty Reduction Strategies and Budget Support.
- Untied as of 2001
- Leadership in Secretary of State
Other influences

- Large effective NGO and advocacy community
- Large pharmaceutical industry
- Large publicly financed health service (NHS)
Lack of Access to medicines: a key impediment to reducing poverty

- Important focus
- Addressing through:
  - Working with other partners internationally to consider approaches

- Prime Minister Initiative through the Cabinet office
  - Variety of policy measures considered to increase access
  - End of April
Front runners in terms of impact *seem* to be

- Differential pricing

- International fund for HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, childhood illnesses… to support:
  - essential drugs and health commodities
  - or funds for the purchase of drugs and commodities
  - Health systems (procurement, delivery, logistics support, quality control, training, drug policy)

- Others include: Tax measures R&D, tax measures around donations that meet criteria as set out by WHO
On Differential Pricing

- Support from UK government departments (DTI, DOH, DFID, CO, $).

- Need:
  - limit parallel re-importation
  - at no increased cost to NHS drug bill
  - considerations for middle income countries

- Framework
  - International support (not just UK, or EC)
  - Identify DP at what level: country or global?
  - In country targeting the poor or ”trickle down”
  - keep it simple
  - support systems development
    - procurement, transparent tendering etc.
Mix of Strategies Crucial

- What potential and limits of differential pricing
  - Patents and/or Generics
  - Those only with large markets
- What diseases
  - HIV/AIDS
  - TB?
  - Malaria, Diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections?
- Need for a mix of strategies and dramatic increase in scale
- Look to leadership from WHO