

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) Versus Cheaper Medications



The most worrisome aspect of the WTO-plus Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in relation to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is the access and availability of generic medication. Generic drugs are prescribed drugs known by their chemical name. Generic forms of the medicine can be prepared if there is no patent, or if it does not violate the patent, or the patent has been terminated, or under compulsory license.

These are drugs made available to the public at a more reasonable price. This is possible because generic drug manufacturers have relatively less investments in the development and research processes and also because prices are lowered by intense competition.

Carlos María has written a Public Health Review on "Implications of FTA on Access to Medicines".

Read the Review at the following Web Address:
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/84/5/399.pdf>