



Ten companies are now licensed to produce daclatasvir, with the MPP adding three new licensees in 2016, Beximco, Sandoz and Zydus Cadila, to manufacture the treatment.

The MPP signed a licence and technology transfer agreement with patent holder Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) for the direct-acting antiviral daclatasvir in 2015 and added three new licensees in 2016. The foundation opened negotiations with Egyptian firm Pharco Pharmaceuticals for a licence on ravidasvir, a drug candidate for the genotype-4 chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV).

“As part of our commitment to broadening access to medicines in developing countries, BMS has been proud to work with the Medicines Patent Pool on supporting the distribution of daclatasvir through its voluntary licensing programme.

Amadou Diarra, Head, Global Policy, Advocacy & Government Affairs at BMS

CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS C

The MPP welcomed the new World Health Organization strategies for HIV and viral hepatitis in spring 2016. The strategies identified voluntary licensing as a path toward increased competition among manufacturers and reduced prices. The WHO issued revised guidelines for combatting hepatitis C in April and its first global report on treatment access in October.

The latter confirmed [that] *“to allow a competitive market, license agreements need to cover a broad territory, be non-exclusive, and include a number of generics-producing companies. They should be made public and ideally be negotiated through the Medicines Patent Pool to ensure transparency, and include pro-competitive, public health-friendly terms and conditions.”*