

Pricing of government funded inventions involving pharmaceutical drugs

Knowledge of NIH funding of health research

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government agency that spends more than \$30 billion on health research.

The extent of government funding of patented inventions varies by disease.

Among the largest areas of federal funding of research and development are cancer and HIV/AIDS. In fiscal year 2013 the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government agency, has budgeted more than \$3 billion for research on HIV/AIDS.

From 2010 to 2011, 19 percent of patents with the term "cancer" in the patent claims, and 23 percent of patents that mention HIV, benefited from US taxpayer funding of the research.

1. Were you previously aware of the extent of US government funding of medical research, including research that leads to patented inventions?

- Yes
- No

NIH policy on pricing of government funded inventions

A 2011 survey of 14 government funded drug discoveries found that private sector patent holders were charging higher prices in the United States than in other high-income countries, often significantly so. (<http://keionline.org/node/1541>)

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government agency that funds research and development, has been asked to grant new non-discriminatory licenses to generic drug manufacturers to use the patents on NIH funded drug discoveries, when drugs are more expensive in the USA than in other high-income countries. (<http://keionline.org/node/1573>)

Drug companies argue that US residents should be free to charge US residents higher prices, even when the drug discovery and development benefited from taxpayer funding of the research.

This survey focuses on the policy the NIH has been asked to adopt for NIH funded patented inventions on pharmaceutical drugs.

2. The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government agency, has rights to the patents for dozens of drugs that were developed with federal funds. Should the NIH require patent holders to charge no more to residents of the United States than the prices in Canada, Europe and other high-income countries, for the same drug?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure