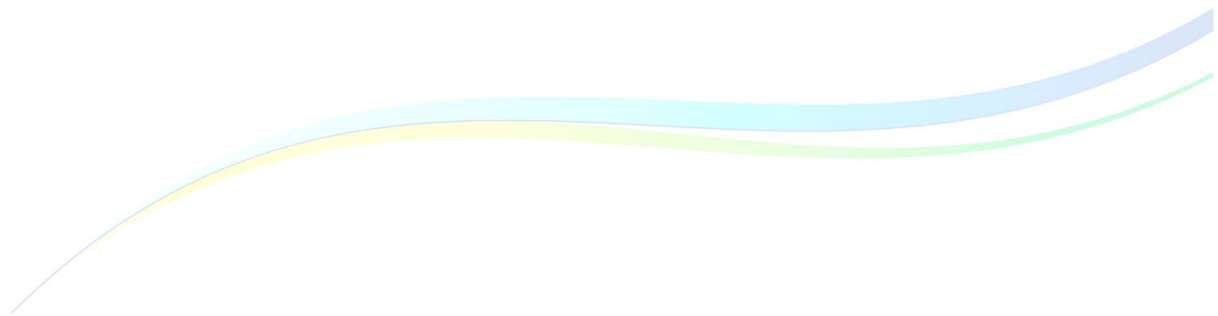


# **Daiichi Sankyo Group's Position on Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Medicines in Developing Countries 2026**



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Medicines in Developing Countries**

## Introduction:

Various types of intellectual property are generated and used in the process of bringing medicines from discovery to commercialization, including use by many patients. These types of intellectual property include the ideas needed to solve scientific and technical issues (patents and utility models), designs that make products easy to use (designs), and branding to ensure that customers can properly identify our medicines (trademarks). The Daiichi Sankyo Group has and continues to create innovative pharmaceuticals addressing diverse medical needs through the appropriate use and protection of intellectual property, thereby contributing to the enrichment of quality of life around the world.

To continuously create innovative medicines through, for example, open innovation and open development, we are also building cooperative relationships with external partners that possess cutting-edge scientific and technological capabilities. We respect our partners' intellectual property rights, as we do all valid third-party intellectual property rights.

There are many transnational challenges related to health and healthcare, including pharmaceutical systems, medical insurance systems, patent systems, and economic situations that differ among countries. Each country has its own specific challenges. Thus, we need to be flexible to address the challenges of different countries and fields of medical care.

## 1. Handling Patents in Countries That Have Difficulty Accessing Medicine

In some countries, doctors and patients have difficulty accessing medicine due to an inadequate medical infrastructure due in part to their economic situations. In these countries, we address this situation under our general policy of placing top priority on improving access to medicine and minimizing patent filing, enforcement of rights or other procedures. For example, we do not intend to file patent applications or enforce rights in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)\*<sup>1</sup> defined by the United Nations or Low-Income Countries (LICs)\*<sup>2</sup> defined by the World Bank. For Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)\*<sup>3</sup> and Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs)\*<sup>4</sup> defined by the World Bank, we file patent applications only in some more developed countries. In the countries where we are filing patent applications, we carefully assess and determine our approach to intellectual property rights on a case-by-case basis, taking into account local circumstances and our commitment to improving access to medicine.

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Furthermore, we are a signatory to IP PACT (IP Principles for Advancing Cures and Therapies)<sup>\*5</sup>, an international framework that promotes patient-centered access to medicines through the utilization of intellectual property rights. By endorsing and implementing this international framework, we demonstrate that our intellectual property activities fulfill our social responsibilities while contributing to improving global access to medicines.

## 2. The Flexibilities under the TRIPS Agreement

In our opinion, the compulsory license provided for in Article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement<sup>\*6</sup> should be carefully exercised in situations like public health-related national emergencies. On the treatment of crises regarding access to medicine in LDCs and LICs, the compulsory license giving permission to export to those countries (TRIPS Agreement Article 31bis<sup>\*7</sup>) should be flexibly exercised in accordance with the intent of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration<sup>\*8</sup>.

## 3. Promoting Access to Patent Information

We are promoting initiatives to enhance access to patent information in order to improve access to medicines and increase intellectual property transparency. We participate in Pat-INFORMED (Patent Information Initiative for Medicines)<sup>\*9</sup>, led by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and publish patent information related to medicines online. This creates an environment where stakeholders involved in procurement of medicines can easily access necessary patent information, aiming to enhance the transparency and reliability of intellectual property.

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1 Least Developed Countries defined by the United Nations:

<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>

2 Low Income Countries defined by the World Bank:

<http://data.worldbank.org/income-level/low-income>

3 Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs) defined by the World Bank:

<http://data.worldbank.org/income-level/lower-middle-income>

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4 Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs) defined by the World Bank:

<http://data.worldbank.org/income-level/upper-middle-income>

5 IP PACT (IP Principles for Advancing Cures and Therapies) :

<https://www.interpat.org/ip-pact/>

6 Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

7 TRIPS Agreement Article 31bis:

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/wtl641\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/wtl641_e.htm)

8 Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health; 2001:

[https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min01\\_e/mindecl\\_trips\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_trips_e.htm)

9 Pat-INFORMED (Patent Information Initiative for Medicines) :

<https://patinformed.wipo.int/>

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