

Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development



Impact REPORT

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT INTO CRITICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Follow-on drugs and indications play key role for World Health Organization

More than 60% of drugs on Essential Drug List are follow-on drugs

- Of 240 drugs on the Essential Drug List (EDL) of the World Health Organization (WHO) today, 63% are follow-on drugs, 49% of which received a priority rating from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - More than 90% of medicines on the EDL are off-patent, low cost drugs.
 - While follow-on drugs as a share of drugs on the EDL increased from 47% to 63% since 1977, the share of follow-on indications fell from 19% to 15%.
 - The number of follow-on drugs in each WHO-defined category appears to be a function of the category's age: the older the category, the more follow-on drugs it includes.
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