

ACCESS TO MEDICINES



Brussels Principles
On the Sale of Medicines Over
the Internet
www.brusselsprinciples.org



The number of people, estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO), that lack regular access to essential medical products (i.e. medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics), which is exacerbated by a lack of affordability and local availability.



One in five Americans over the age of 55 report skipping prescription doses or refills due to cost.

2 BILLION+

THE INTERNET

The Internet has served as a disruptive force to industry in the practice of pharmacy and trade in pharmaceutical products, allowing for international sale of medical products to patients with a prescription.



FAILURE TO REGULATE

Failure to regulate the sale of medical products over the internet, including failure to differentiate between legitimate online pharmacies and rogue websites, poses a major public health risk.

HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS



Governments are neglecting their human rights obligations when their populations do not have adequate access to affordable healthcare, including access to medical products.

THE BRUSSELS PRINCIPLES

The Brussels Principles emphasize the importance of the international online marketplace as a lifeline of affordable medication for the millions of people forced to go without necessary treatment due to drug cost and availability. These focus on the rights of individuals to use the Internet to order medications and have them delivered through the mail, particularly when patients have no other realistic options. Governments are also asked to identify and sanction online pharmacies that engage in the intentional sale of falsified and substandard medication, as defined by the World Health Organization, and to otherwise ensure that online pharmacies are a reliable and safe source of medications.