

# Shame on Merck

Merck charges Mexico more than 6 times more than other Latin American countries for Stocrin and hasn't kept its promise to distribute Atripla, the 3-in-1 AIDS treatment that could help save countless lives in Mexico.



In Mexico, there are close to 200,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.

More than 50% cannot afford lifesaving treatment.

A woman begs for help to pay for her AIDS medications.

As Merck and other drug companies from around the world come to Mexico City for the 2008 International AIDS Conference, prices for lifesaving AIDS drugs remain too expensive for most people living with HIV/AIDS in Mexico.

It has been nearly 2 years since Merck announced its agreement with Gilead to distribute its 3-in-1 AIDS treatment Atripla in Mexico for \$1,032 per patient annually. Today, Mexicans are forced to pay over \$4,300 for the same three medicines separately.

Merck's Stocrin (efavirenz) is the backbone of many standard antiretroviral drug regimens. AIDS advocates question why Stocrin costs approximately \$140 USD in Honduras, yet Merck charges \$893 USD for Stocrin in Mexico. Advocates and HIV/AIDS patients insist Merck must match its lowest available price of Stocrin in other Latin American countries in Mexico as well.

For more information, please visit [www.aidshealth.org](http://www.aidshealth.org)

**AIDS**  
**HEALTHCARE**  
FOUNDATION