



Yearly Cost to Treat Global Hepatitis B Could Be Only \$36 Per Person

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Producing large generic quantities of the first-line hepatitis B virus (HBV) therapy entecavir could translate to an annual treatment cost of just \$36 per person, aidsmap reports. Publishing their findings in the *Journal of Virus Eradication*, researchers estimated the cost of drug production and packaging, allowing for a 50 percent profit for the manufacturers.

The pharmaceutical ingredient in entecavir, the researchers estimated, would cost 1.1 cents per pill, for a total of \$4 per year. By comparison, tenofovir, the other first-line therapy for hep B monoinfection recommended by the World Health Organization, would cost 6.6 cents per pill.

Entecavir has lost patent production in several countries, including the United States.

To read the aidsmap story, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/entecavir-cost-27094-1197331857>