

University of Groningen

The right to health as the basis for universal access to essential medicines

Perehudoff, Sammi-Jo Katrina

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Perehudoff, S-J. K. (2018). *The right to health as the basis for universal access to essential medicines: A normative framework and practical examples for national law and policy*. Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

The right to health as the basis for universal access to essential medicines

S. Katrina Pehudoff, 5 September 2018

1. International human rights law imposes 'core obligations' on governments. For essential medicines, these obligations imply four immediate actions: exercise non-discrimination, allocate sufficient public financing, use low-cost policy options, and seek international assistance when needed (this thesis).
2. One of the great misconceptions about the right to health is that it demands that all people have immediate access to any treatment, regardless of its price (this thesis).
3. In the context of access to medicines, cost-effectiveness is the public health basis of the human rights principle of progressive realisation (this thesis).
4. The World Health Organization's (WHO) policy advice on essential medicines can promote the practical application of human rights principles in national medicines policies (this thesis).
5. WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines should be aligned with current scientific evidence, the right to health, and its own policy advice in other domains, rather than be susceptible to political sensitivities (this thesis).
6. Embedding in national law individual rights, government obligations, and non-judicial accountability mechanisms for access to essential medicines is an important step in achieving universal health coverage and sustainable development (this thesis).
7. The first step towards rights realisation - and a key condition for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for health - is more consistent monitoring and reporting on national and global access to essential medicines (this thesis).
8. Courts play an important role in enforcing national legislation for access to medicines (this thesis).
9. It's time the health and legal communities joined forces: to make global health and the law one of the most powerful means to achieve global justice (Horton, Richard (2016). *Offline: The rule of law- an invisible determinant of health*. The Lancet. 387(10025), 1260).
10. WHO should develop the first-ever guidelines for Member States on embedding in domestic law the human rights principles for universal access to medicines.
11. For if the world treats you well, Sir, you come to believe you are deserving of it (Atwood Margaret (1996). *Alias Grace* (first edition). Toronto, Canada: McClelland and Stewart. p. 171).
12. Scientific discovery is fundamentally a team sport; academia should reward successful teamwork, not only the star athletes.