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## **The Access to Medicine Index: reconciling medicine as a product and medicine as a right**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This case study is centred on the work conducted by analysts in order to produce an Access To Medicine Index (ATMI). The Index aims to create – between the pharmaceutical industry and multiple stakeholders – a neutral ground where the problem of access to medicine can be temporarily framed as a performance assessment exercise. The Index, whose outcome is a ranking of participating pharmaceutical companies, is expected to induce companies to compete to improve their performance in terms of the accessibility of their products. This paper follows the mechanics of the performance measurement leading to the creation of the Index, and traces the notions of objectivity and the epistemic values at play in the work of the analysts and other experts involved. The paper shows that the multi-stakeholder mission of the ATMI – as an instrument of governance through transparency and competition – shapes the epistemic values at play in its production, and is in turn shaped by such values. The paper discusses the ATMI as an inscription that can only exist as constant work in progress, whose information value is extracted by magnifying changes at the margin, and that aims at producing a particular form of “public” knowledge. The paper ultimately points to the jointly political and anti-political character of such knowledge.