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Sommario/riassunto	The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property rights (TRIPS) requires all WTO members to adopt certain minimum standards for the protection of intellectual property rights including the rights of holders of patents for pharmaceutical products. The adoption of the standards delineated by the TRIPS Agreement appears to have resulted in significant loss of public health policy flexibilities for developing country members with respect to regulating the grant and use of pharmaceutical patents and controlling the cost of medicines. The Agreement, however, provides inherent flexibil