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# Orphan Drug

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Orphan Drug*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C48201.

A compound or product that demonstrates promise for the diagnosis and/or treatment of rare diseases and conditions that affect fewer than 200,000 people. The U.S. Orphan Drug Act (1983) encourages development of these therapeutics by tax breaks and a seven-year monopoly on drug sales. These incentives promote the development and manufacturing of such therapeutics, which otherwise might not be profitable because of the small potential market.