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SAFEMed

October 2019

## MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEDICAL CENTRAL PROCUREMENT AGENCY OFFICE

Ukraine's medical Central Procurement Agency (CPA) officially opened the doors of its new office on October 2, 2019. The event was attended by Minister of Health Ms. Zoryana Skaletska, First Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Andriy Semyvolos, Chairman of Verkhovna Rada Health Committee Dr. Mykhail Radutsky, and USAID's Regional Mission Director to Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova Ms. Susan Fritz as well as other representatives of diplomatic missions, donor organizations, and NGOs.



***“We believe that close cooperation with the regional partners and health care providers will help the Central Procurement Agency to quickly respond to specific needs within Ukraine,” emphasized Ms. Susan Fritz. “USAID is ready to continue our cooperation with the Ministry of Health. We would like to see a smooth and gradual transition of procurements from international agents to an in-house team of high caliber professionals,” she continued.***

The office opening is a significant milestone for the CPA, as it indicates how far the agency has progressed since its inception in October 2018. As a result of the support provided by USAID and other donors, the agency has developed a vision for its work and has grown into a team of 25 multi-disciplined professionals supporting select Global Fund purchases, introducing new regional procurement instruments, and working on transitioning procurement of medicines from the international organizations to the newly formed CPA.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health emphasized the importance of effective and transparent procurement of medicines in Ukraine, adding that they have high expectations for the agency and its success. In addition, the Minister of Health voiced her support to the agency to ensure that it is an independent and transparent procurement body.

## UNDERSTANDING CHANGES IN THE LAW OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

At the end of October 2019, Ukraine's President signed into law revised legislation on public procurement. The law will have an impact on the procurement of medicinal products, which fits within the mandate of the CPA. To build an in-depth understanding of the new law, minimize risks, and streamline internal processes, USAID's SAFEMed project conducted a practical workshop for CPA's categorical managers, lawyers, logistics specialists and contract specialists. Over the course of the workshop, SAFEMed's legal partner, Legal Alliance led an open discussion about changes in the procedural aspects of procurement using public funds, including Tender Committee functionalities, specifications, and key principles of breaking procurements into separate lots, estimating the value of the purchase, appeal, and much more.

## SUPPORTING NHSU'S REIMBURSEMENT FORUM CONNECTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

On October 25, 2019 the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), with support from USAID's SAFEMed Project, hosted a national forum on Ukraine's Affordable Medicine Reimbursement Program. The forum brought together more than 150 representatives of pharmacies, distribution companies, doctors, government agencies, and international projects, demonstrating a great example of fruitful cooperation between public and private sector for the benefit of Ukrainian patients.



The national reimbursement program was successfully transferred from the Ministry of Health to NHSU on April 1, 2019, with the introduction of an electronic prescription system. The forum showcased the results from the first six months since the transition to NHSU, and enabled the exchange of experiences and local solutions for pharmacies across the country. Since April, 6.8 million e-prescriptions have been issued by family doctors across all Ukrainian regions, and 5.7 million prescriptions (84%) amounting to over 400 million Ukrainian Hryvna have been filled by the 7,638 participating pharmacies. The Affordable Medicines Program has made several crucial prescription medications more affordable and accessible to Ukrainians patients suffering from hypertension, type II diabetes and bronchial asthma.

SAFEMed will continue to support NHSU to further expand the program for nearly 200,000 insulin-dependent diabetes type I patients starting in April 1, 2020.

### Stay Tuned for the Next Digest

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