STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON POSITIVE LIST DEVELOPMENT SERVED AS A COMMUNICATION PLATFORM TO ALIGN EFFORTS OF KEY PLAYERS

On 11 August, the MOH Deputy Minister for the pharmaceutical directorate, Dr. Oleksandr Komarida, hosted a meeting to discuss steps needed for implementation of the Positive List and the status of the remaining HTA orders requiring approval. SAFEmed attended the meeting along with representatives from SEC, CPA, NHSU, and other members of the MOH pharmaceutical directorate. Following a fruitful discussion, participants reached consensus on the need for clear communication and broad stakeholder engagement to finalize the medicines for inclusion in the list. The MOH offered guidance for the general directions needed for the CMU decree and requested SAFEmed support to develop a detailed Positive List action plan. Regarding the draft HTA orders, the MOH Deputy Minister confirmed that they are under MOH internal review and are close to approval after a few minor clarifications. All participants emphasized the need for a timely approval of these orders to facilitate decision-making on medicines’ access based on HTA.

EXPERTS FROM CPA AND SAFEMED VISIT ZAPORIZHZHYA REGION

On 18-20 August, representatives from CPA and SAFEmed traveled to Zaporizhzhya Region to meet with regional authorities and healthcare specialists. The goal of the visit was to further educate regional representatives on the services offered by CPA and learn firsthand about regional healthcare facility operations focusing on demand collection of medical goods, supplies, storage, and distribution. The joint team visited key regional healthcare facilities, such as the Zaporizhzhya region general hospital, the regional infectious disease hospital, including HIV/AIDS department representatives, and the regional oncology center. The team also visited a primary healthcare facility on the sub-district level in the village of Terpinnya and the district general hospital in Melitopol city.

Photos credit: Central Procurement Agency
During the visit the team met with regional authorities and doctors to explore ways to strengthen cooperation with CPA. Topics in the meeting included the importance of regions receiving timely information about upcoming deliveries of medicines, the need for accurate collection of demand from regional and district hospitals, and interest on the part of doctors for emergency purchases of medicines especially for cardiovascular disease. Another session took place among more than 50 individuals responsible for health facility-based procurement to introduce the e-catalog instrument, identify key challenges for those who have already been using e-catalog, and answer questions about how to optimize its use.

At each of the hospitals, the CPA team introduced the new Power BI-based tool designed to provide information on medicines procured by CPA from procurement through delivery. The tool was created for the convenience of public customers to be able to track their own anticipated deliveries.

SAFEMED SUPPORTS THE CENTRAL PROCUREMENT AGENCY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN IT SYSTEMS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Over the last several months, SAFEMed has provided technical and financial assistance to CPA to develop up-to-date effective electronic systems to manage different aspects of the pharmaceutical procurement and supply chain. The solution will cover inventory management, transportation management and forecasting, which will bring benefits to all stakeholders, from patients who receive medicines on time to the MOH, receiving budget savings on storage, transportation, and disposal of expired medicines.

More specifically, the future IT systems will enable CPA to do the following:

- keep records of the movement of all goods movement
- reduce the number of situations with out of stock or over stock of goods in hospitals through more efficient supply management
- control the time of purchase from suppliers based on the level of consumption and lead time for order fulfillment
- reduce the number of situations with a shortage or idle space of the central warehouse
- establish automated supply management through regional warehouses
- keep batch records, first use of goods with a shorter expiration date, track the quality of planning and execution of deliveries, and track the quality of suppliers’ performance

This activity is designed to improve the quality of supply chain management, optimize available resources, expand access to medicines, and ultimately to save people’s lives.

USAID THROUGH SAFEMED CONTINUES SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE IN DISTRIBUTION OF PFIZER/BIONTECH VACCINES

On 29 August, Ukraine received another 188,370 doses of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine donated by the United States through the COVAX facility. The availability of safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 is a key element of Ukraine’s strategy to combat the pandemic. SAFEMed continues supporting the MOH with warehousing and distribution logistics, including ultra-cold chain requirements to ensure the safe delivery of the vaccines.

Photo credit: MOH Ukraine Facebook page

Stay Tuned for the Next Digest

Contact information

This newsletter is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of contract number AID-121-C-17-00004. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Management Sciences for Health and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.