

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

THE NHSU AND USAID'S SAFEMED PROJECT HOST THE SECOND NATIONAL REIMBURSEMENT FORUM

The forum, held 6 September, focused on preparing the health system for the launch of the new program to cover medicines for diabetes as well as mental health at little or no cost to patients.

The forum brought together more than 1,200 people who are involved in various ways with the insulin reimbursement program, including pharmacists, family practitioners, secondary care facilities, manufacturers, patient NGOs, regional health departments as well as the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Healthcare Committee, Mykhailo Radutsky.

The audience demonstrated interest and active engagement in discussions. The format of the virtual meeting allowed stakeholders from all over the country to join the discussion.

SAFEMed is a trusted and long-term partner of the Government of Ukraine in the implementation of the medicine reimbursement program. SAFEMed will continue to support NHSU to successfully incorporate insulin and mental health medicines reimbursement module into the reimbursement system, including provision of legal acts based on monitoring of implementation of these modules.



Photo credit: The National Health Service of Ukraine

THE MOH AND USAID'S SAFEMED PROJECT ORGANIZE THIRD NATIONAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT FORUM

The event held 16-17 September brought together over 220 on- and off-line participants along with national and international experts to discuss the current status and identify next steps to further institutionalize Health Technical Assessment (HTA) in Ukraine.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

Forum themes included the establishment of an Independent HTA Agency in Ukraine, creation of a Positive List of pharmaceuticals under public coverage, HTA for medical devices, improving evidence based decision-making at policy and clinical levels, and horizon scanning.

The forum clearly showed that:

- The HTA ecosystem in Ukraine is advancing and there is considerable interest among diverse players;

- The engagement of stakeholders continues to grow, with increased involvement of patients and clinicians, both of whom are the ultimate beneficiaries of a robust HTA function;
- The political will and stakeholders' support has been steadily growing towards full implementation of HTA despite challenges and political changes;
- While there is general support for an independent HTA Agency, more discussion is needed to agree on the timing, financial considerations, and the detailed steps needed for such a transition.

THE LAST MILE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP LOGISTICS PILOT WINS PRESTIGIOUS SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION AWARD

The award recognizes the innovative work in Ukraine that brings lifesaving HIV and tuberculosis medicines to patient who needs them was announced during CSCMP's Supply Chain Conference & Exhibition on 22 September.

The Ukraine entry, submitted by SAFEMed, the CPH, and private logistics provider Farmasoft, was titled "Ukraine: Tapping a Private Fleet to get Medicines to the Last Mile" and explained how a private pharmaceutical logistics company facilitated last-mile distribution of HIV and TB medicines directly to service delivery points. The approach aims to streamline fragmented public-sector logistics services while following supply chain best practices and improving patient outcomes.

The presentation gave a glimpse of the pilot's evolution, pioneering methods, promising results, and lessons learned, along with recommendations for national scale-up. It was presented by Vita Nosulenko, Business Development at Farmasoft, and Sergey Strashuk, Principal Technical Advisor on Supply Chain Management at SAFEMed/MSH.

SAFEMED SUPPORTS THE MOH AND THE CPH WITH ANTIRETROVIRAL (ARV) QUANTIFICATION

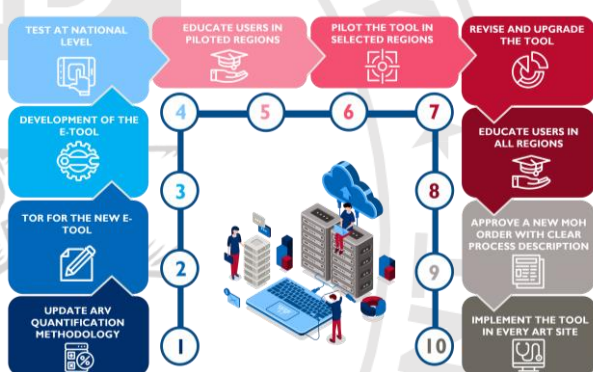


Figure 1. ARV Quantification Roadmap

An MOH working group on the ARV quantification roadmap development held its inaugural meeting in June, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders to discuss improvements in how ARVs are quantified in order to ensure proper supply of these life-saving medicines. During the meeting, CPH representatives proposed to extend the quantification period for ARVs from 18 up to 24 months to create a buffer stock to mitigate possible risks associated with supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to facilitate multi-month dispensing (MMD).

Working group members, including WHO and CDC, agreed with the recommendation. The respective amendments to the ARV quantification methodology were approved by MOH in July 2021. In parallel, CPH also initiated a meeting among stakeholders involved in developing the eHealth system (e.g., NHSU, the e-Health State Enterprise) to discuss technical aspects of creating the electronic tool and to reaffirm that the new e-tool will fit into the overall eHealth architecture in Ukraine.

Based on these discussions and other meetings among CPH, CPA, and SAFEMed, as well as important buy-in from international partners, the final draft of the ARV quantification roadmap (see Figure 1) was presented and approved during the working group meeting at the end of August.

WE ARE HIRING!

We're hiring! If you are interested or know someone who is, please check out the following opportunities: Senior Technical Advisors for Procurement, eHealth, COVID-19 Supply Chain, and Measurement and Learning (MEL) on MSH's website: [SAFEMed Opportunities](#)

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