

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

SAFEMED SUPPORTS CPA MEDIA EVENT

The offline event, organized 22 September by Central Procurement Agency of Ukraine (CPA) and supported by SAFEMed, gathered together journalists and bloggers from the leading national media and aimed to:

- highlight the pharmaceutical priorities and needs of health facilities at the national and regional levels;
- contribute to the correct dissemination of information and the involvement of the population in the process of reforms in the health care sector.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

"Today, we would like to emphasize the importance of increasing public involvement in the health reforms in Ukraine as an important factor to ensure their success. With this regard, we would like to thank the CPA for taking the initiative. We are pleased to support Ukraine in continuing to build trust in its procurement capacity and implementing the health reforms aimed at increasing efficiency, coverage, and transparency of health services for Ukrainian citizens" - emphasized Ben Zinner, Director of USAID's Office of Health.

Nine leading Ukrainian media representatives and two bloggers attended the event. Journalists indicated their readiness to cover stories around the procurement and delivery of medicines in the nomenclature as well as the status of COVID-19 medicines and vaccine purchases by the state. An example of the stories that were published following the event can be seen here: day.kiev.ua

SAFEMED SHARES RESULTS OF AN ASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION CENTERS HOUSING HIV, TB, AND HEPATITIS MEDICINES



Photo credit: SAFEMed

The MOH, together with SAFEMed hosted an event on 28 September to present the results of an independent evaluation of the regional distribution centers for the storage of ARVs as well as treatment for TB and viral hepatitis. These medicines are purchased through centralized programs and transported from national warehouses to regional distribution centers for further delivery to health care facilities.

SAFEMed contacted the consulting firm Kreston Ukraine to conduct the assessment among the 79 regional facilities across the country in April-May of this year.

The assessment found that most centers met basic requirements according to current Ukrainian regulations; however, there were significant discrepancies among several key domains, including use of make-shift locations for storage that were sometimes overloaded and use of obsolete and worn-out equipment (i.e., household refrigerators, hygrometers), and weak use of standardized systems to track shelf life. The assessment recommendations will be instrumental in reinforcing a more robust comprehensive national logistics system for Ukraine.

"Such a task is necessary for the health care system development in Ukraine. After all, it is important to us that medicines are stored safely and affordably" - Ihor Kuzin, Deputy Minister of Health - Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine.

SAFEMED REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATED IN THE MONITORING VISIT TO TERNOPIL ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

To support the Government of Ukraine in scaling up COVID-19 vaccination, WHO, in close collaboration with the MOH and other international partners, organizes monthly joint monitoring missions to regions. The overall goal of the visits is to review progress with the COVID-19 vaccination campaign at the regional level, assess immunization-safety standards, and check vaccine uptake among different target groups.



Photo credit: Igor Katsytadze, UNICEF

On 17-18 October, SAFEMed representative, Dmytro Nestor, Senior Technical Officer, participated in the visit to Ternopil region. Over two days, the joint monitoring group met with the regional health administration and key personnel responsible for the vaccination campaign, visited the regional distribution center where COVID-19 vaccines are stored and observed work of the two immunization points and three vaccination centers. Upon completing these visits, the monitoring group elaborated recommendations and presented them along with key findings to the regional health authority. The group noted a high level of engagement of the management team in all processes of the vaccination campaign and strong coordination among different stakeholders. Another important finding was that local authorities were regularly visiting immunization points and vaccination centers to support implementation. They regularly go to the healthcare facilities and other places where the population is getting COVID-19 vaccines, estimate the vaccination process, collect feedback from the medical staff and patients and based on that develop recommendations. This approach allows local government to make the appropriate adjustments to the vaccination plan and contextualize vaccination campaign to the need of each community.

THE HTA DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE EXPERT CENTER COMPLETES THE FIRST FIVE REVIEWS OF PHARMACEUTICAL HTA DOSSIERS

On 20 October the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Department finalized their review of four medicine dossiers submitted by pharmaceutical companies for possible inclusion in the National Essential Medicines List (NEML) or Nomenclature. The reviews, referred to as conclusions, are [published](#) on the State Expert Center website; a fifth conclusion was also made on 28 October. All five dossiers are for new oncology medicines.

In May of this year, following the December 2020 Cabinet of Ministers Decree authorizing HTA for all new Medicines, industry started for the first time to submit applications for full HTA procedures in accordance with the new regulations. As such, these conclusions represent a key milestone in the further evolution of the institutionalization of HTA in Ukraine.

The HTA procedure consists of an analysis of the medicine's comparative efficiency (effectiveness), safety, cost-effectiveness and the results of the budget impact analysis of the medicinal product. HTA conclusions based on these analyses outline a recommendation for whether or not to include these medicines into the NEML or Nomenclature, and if not, if such medicines should be considered for going through a management entry agreement (MEA) procedure. The MOH, then must make the final decision on the next course of action.

Along with the good news about the first conclusions from the HTA authorized body, another step was taken towards the further implementation of the HTA ecosystem. Four of the five applied medicines referenced above contained a recommendation to consider negotiating a managed entry agreement, or MEA. This innovative contracting tool allows the state to have a mechanism for negotiating with manufacturers of medicines under special conditions that will be relevant to both parties and help patients gain access to innovative treatments.

Over the last two years, SAFEMed has been providing technical assistance to the GOU to establish a robust HTA system in Ukraine, with the aim of expanding access to life saving medicines to the people of Ukraine.

WE ARE HIRING!

We're hiring! If you are interested or know someone who is, please check out the opportunities on MSH's website: [SAFEMed Opportunities](#)

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Contact information
17 Reitarska Street, Suite 23, 5th Floor
01034, Kyiv, Ukraine