

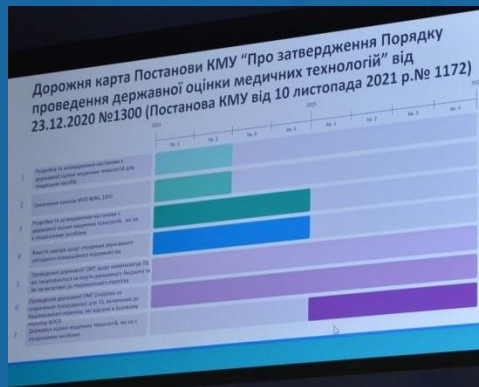
MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

SAFEMED SUPPORTED THE FIRST WEBINAR ON USE OF HTA BY HOSPITALS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

An “Introduction to Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment (HB-HTA)” webinar, organized by the HTA Department of the State Expert Center (SEC) with SAFEMed support, took place on December 7 and brought together 46 representatives from nine Ukrainian hospitals as well as experts from academic institutions, SEC, the Ministry of Health, and the National Health Service of Ukraine. The event raised transparent dialogue and discussion of HTA implementation in Ukraine, increased participants’ knowledge and understanding of the main challenges, and prioritized further steps for future work.

Speakers from the SEC, the Bogomolets National Medical University, and SAFEMed introduced attendees to hospital-based HTA and shared international experience in implementing HB-HTA globally. All registered participants joined online and asked questions in real-time on the chat platform. The webinar concluded with a lively discussion and four hospitals declared readiness to take part in a pilot project to implement hospital-based HTA.

The webinar was an excellent opportunity for representatives from hospitals and clinicians to become familiar with the principles of hospital-based HTA and gain insights into how to apply these principles in their own procurement decisions. SAFEMed will continue to support MOH and SEC for relevant tools development and piloting of HB HTA in select hospitals.



HTA Department Director, Oresta Pinyazhko presenting the general process of state HTA; Photo credit: SEC

INNOVATIVE MEDICINE AGAINST TB NOW REGISTERED IN UKRAINE

Tuberculosis remains a critical public health challenge in Ukraine. In 2020, TB prevalence rates were 42.2 cases per 100,000 people, which is among the highest in Europe (WHO Regional Office for Europe). Further, drug-resistant TB remains high in Ukraine and treatment success has been suboptimal. Globally, safer and more effective oral treatment regimens for both TB and DR-TB are now available, and the Government of Ukraine (GOU) and its partners have been working to introduce these medicines to the country. As a result of a fruitful collaboration between the Ministry of Health, the Center for Public Health (CPH), the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) along with key partners (WHO, Global Fund, 100% Life, GDF, the Green Light Committee, and SAFEMed), Ukraine has registered the innovative medicine Pretomanid for TB treatment. Pretomanid is used for the treatment of MDR-TB for patients who have had no positive response to previous treatment. Ukraine will be just the fifth country in the world to authorize, via its regulatory body, the use of Pretomanid, which reaffirms the country's global commitment to modern approaches to the treatment of drug-resistant TB. During the process, SAFEMed facilitated communication and coordination between CPH, CPA, a manufacturer of the product and the SEC leading to the successful registration process. Access to this medicine will allow Ukraine to effectively treat no less than 90% of TB patients, a key WHO recommendation. CPA began the procurement procedure for Pretomanid using 2021 state funds and is expected to deliver the medicines to regions by the first half of 2022.

SAFEMED SUPPORTED THE "HTA PROGRESS IN UKRAINE" QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE

The MOH, with SAFEMed support, organized an online roundtable on December 13 to exchange views on the success of HTA implementation in Ukraine in 2021. MOH First Deputy Minister Dr Oleksandr Komarida, SEC Director Mykhailo Babenko and SAFEMed Chief-of-Party Rebecca Kohler greeted 178 meeting participants from MOH, NHSU, CPA, SEC and HTA Department, academia, non-governmental Ukrainian and international organizations, patient organizations, industry, legal and hospital representatives.

During the roundtable, SAFEMed presented the results of a recent informal review of 18 stakeholder's perceptions of HTA implementation in Ukraine. Satisfaction was universally very positive. During the interviews, respondents provided suggestions for process improvement, including proposals to improve the regulatory framework, HTA technical aspects and development plans, and communication strategies. A follow-up panel generated broad audience interaction with comments from the MOH, SEC, NHSU, the Expert Committee of the Essential Medicine List, and industry representatives.

SAFEMED PARTICIPATED IN HEALTH CARE CREATIVE FORUM

The eight annual Health Care Creative Forum, held on December 14 under the slogan "Farma's Breakthrough Points". Eight speakers came together offline to explore new opportunities for the healthcare industry in 2022: trends, digital tools, effective communication, and social initiatives.

During the second section of the forum, participants raised topical issues of healthcare marketing global transformation and the effectiveness of social projects of brands and non-profit organizations. Speakers discussed the differences between the development of corporate social responsibility (CSR) worldwide and in Ukraine, as well as shared experiences and advice on successful social initiatives. In particular, on the topic of CSR and the value of companies investing in social programs, including those promoting healthy populations, for the long term.

"CSR is becoming fashionable in Ukraine and is beginning to play an important role the projects with international funding. If earlier projects were mainly implemented by donor funding, now CSR projects are also addressing more sustainable public good, such as changes in legislation and improvement of the social climate. In this context, SAFEMed is supporting delivery of medicines to the regional level, since all patients throughout the country need them. That is, patients and their access to medicines are at the center of our activity" - emphasized SAFEMed Principal Technical Advisor on Supply Chain Management Sergey Strashuk.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

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