

## SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND EFFECTIVE MEDICINES FOR UKRAINIANS (SAFEMed) ACTIVITY

MONTHLY  
NEWS  
DIGEST



### OVERVIEW

Our work in Ukraine aims to bolster pharmaceutical governance and financing, contribute to a longer-term plan for pharmaceutical financing, and strengthen rational pharmaceutical management and the pharmaceutical supply chain, ultimately leading to better availability and use of essential medicines, particularly for those living with TB, HIV and AIDS, and noncommunicable diseases. We support the Government of Ukraine in responding to COVID-19 through technical assistance in implementing its national vaccination plan.

## SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE MOH, NHSU, PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS, HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT PARTNERS IN THE UNSTABLE AND CONSTANTLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT OF THE WAR

Since the beginning of the war, SAFEMed has closely surveyed the general situation of medical supplies in Ukraine. Over the past few weeks, we conducted meetings and consulted with all key stakeholders: government institutions, professional associations, academia, pharmaceutical data firms, and other implementing partners to continue to operate and support during the war. Gaps were identified and possible solutions to address the rising needs in the healthcare arena were determined.

Taking into account priority issues in healthcare that are most affected by the war, SAFEMed will continue to collaborate with the pharmaceutical community to access and deliver medicines to patients. SAFEMed will also continue to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) to improve access to Essential Medicine List (EML) during the war by engaging the former EML Expert Committee, academic institutes, and the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Department.

SAFEMed will also continue to keep stakeholders apprised of

any legal changes or amendments and the situation analysis of the pharmaceutical market.

**We will continue to support the further improvement of IT systems that support access to medicines; assess the patients' needs, and explore different ways to provide access to medicines through the reimbursement program.**



## CPA REMAINS OPERATIONAL, EFFECTIVELY CARRYING OUT ITS MAIN PROCUREMENT MISSION

Since the night of 24 February, Ukraine has been under an unprovoked and unjustified full-scale invasion by Russia. The Ukrainian people are now bravely fighting the occupiers, defending democratic values, and the idea of self-identification.

Despite the state of war in the country, the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) remains an operational key state agency of Ukraine in the procurement and supply of medical goods purchased from the state budget, carrying out its main mission

to the best of its ability. Along with carrying out the activities of centralized medical procurement, CPA also supports the coordination of the supply of medical humanitarian aid, provided by international donors to the MOH of Ukraine for the needs of medical institutions and medical workers. CPA has already negotiated, and partially delivered, international medical aid for an estimated budget of over USD 50 million.

On 17 March 2022, CPA led a medical humanitarian aid coordination meeting with USAID and EU Embassies, as well as Ukrainian Embassies abroad. The meeting focused on potential ways for improved cooperation and coordination for foreign entities that are willing to donate different medical supplies to Ukraine according to the most essential demand.

**As always, SAFEMed continues to support MOH, CPA and stakeholders on medicines quantification, stock and consumption monitoring, and distribution.**



## SAFEMED FACILITATES PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR BLOOD STORAGE BETWEEN UTCC AND B MEDICAL SYSTEMS



**At the beginning of the war, SAFEMed received a request from the MOH's specialized State Institution, the "Ukrainian Transplant Coordination Center (UTCC)", to assist in locating blood bank refrigerators (with the storage capacity of 269 liters) that would enable the transport of essential blood supplies.**

In response, "B Medical Systems", a Luxembourg-based manufacturer and distributor of medical refrigeration devices who had prior experience with SAFEMed, quickly responded to the request and offered their own devices that were

initially intended for alternate purposes. These devices have the desired capacity to store blood at temperatures ranging from 2°C to 6°C. As part of the humanitarian aid to Ukraine, the endeavor was supported by the Swiss Aid in Wilen, Switzerland. Swiss Aid agreed to purchase five blood bank refrigerators for UTCC and the logistics services and customs clearance would be provided by the DSV company.

The successful delivery of the five blood bank refrigerators may eventually lead to the supply of another twenty refrigerators and potentially the procurement of plasma storage freezers.

Furthermore, supplies provided by B Medical System equipment will help to improve and to secure the blood cold supply chain, from the donor to the recipient in Ukraine during both war and post-war periods, while still remaining in compliance with the WHO specifications.

**SAFEMed will continue to coordinate these efforts and work closely with UTCC in order to fine-tune equipment delivery and installation to the final recipient of the blood bank refrigerator. The next steps in discussion is for further improvement and enforcement of the Ukrainian cold chain infrastructure.**

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