



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 AND PARTNERS ATTENDED HTAI ANNUAL MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS

SAFEMed, the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Department of the State Expert Center (SEC) of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), Ukrainian academics, and patient organizations attended the Annual Meeting of the International HTA Society (HTAi) that was held from June 25 to 29 in Utrecht, Netherlands. HTAi is an international society with a mission to promote and support HTA globally and its annual meeting is a unique occasion for HTA experts around the world to gather and share knowledge and experience.

This year, the meeting was held in a hybrid model and the Ukrainian HTA experts were able to participate in the meeting both in person and through a virtual platform. Professor Rabia Kahveci, SAFEMed Senior Technical Advisor for Pharmaceuticals Policy and Governance, and Dr Oresta Piniashko, Director of the HTA Department, delivered in-person presentations in a special session on how the HTA function in Ukraine was resilient during the war and continued to support HTA decision-making of the MOH during these challenging times.

The session was well attended by over 300 participants, with great appreciation and respect from the audience and concluded with a standing ovation for the bravery of the Ukrainian health professionals.



Photo credit: SAFEMed

THE MOH FURTHER DEVELOPS THE HTA REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Over the last few months, Ukraine has moved closer to the elaboration of the full HTA legal framework that will allow the health system to provide evidence-based medicines and other health technologies to be included in state-funded health programs. On June 8, the MOH published on their website Order N 980, "On the formation and approval of the working group of the Ministry of Health composition for the formation of the National List of Essential Medicine (NEML)".

This Regulation determines the procedures for how the MOH working group will advise on issues of the NEML formation as a permanent advisory body of the MOH. The working group will be the authorized body from the state HTA department to assess and make conclusions of which proposals of the medicinal products should be included for public coverage.

The last step in the HTA legal framework is an internal order of the SEC that was approved on June 24, No. 79 "On the formation of an Expert Committee (EC)". This order, drafted with support from SAFEMed, formalizes the creation of an HTA EC within the SEC and describes roles and responsibilities of this committee.

Thus far, the SEC has announced a competitive selection process for EC members and plans to make the final selection by August 5.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UKRAINE TO PROVIDE TIMELY ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE AND SAFE TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS



Photo credit: Yagotynsky District Hospital

The Kyiv region was one of the most damaged territories, especially those areas occupied in the early weeks of the war. Once de-occupied, healthcare professionals required significant supplies of the pharmaceutical goods to help affected civilians.

In April 2022, SAFEMed together with the MOH team performed a monitoring visit within the region to identify gaps and issues in ensuring delivery of medicines and medical supplies to hospitals. This visit identified dramatically reduced storage capacity and lack of staff that resulted in long and ineffective storage of goods on hospitals grounds.

To ensure timely access to effective and safe treatment to patients and access to medical services, SAFEMed provided outstanding support to the regional healthcare authorities including but not limited to the organizational and financial support. A Kyiv region warehouse was established on the premises of a national transition warehouse also based in Kyiv that was designed to provide national level support to regional authorities to process, handle, and deliver pharmaceutical goods to the hospitals and patients in this region.

The Kyiv region receives a variety of deliveries continuously from the transition warehouse in Lviv and Dnipro. As of June 2022, around 30-40 pallets of new goods are delivered weekly. From the very beginning of the war, more than 600 pallets were processed and delivered to the patients in the Kyiv region with the support of SAFEMed.

THE SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE:



Comprehensive analysis of the delivered goods according to documents from the Center for Public Health (the agency serving as the official recipient of all humanitarian aid delivered to the country) to ensure appropriateness in the nomenclature and quantities. Additionally, this stage includes goods sorting to ensure

expired products are not delivered to hospitals. Based on the analysis, the warehouse provided extensive information to the regional authorities on delivered goods to enable faster and more accurate preparation of the distribution documents for the hospitals.



The warehouse provides the collection and packing of goods to be delivered to hospitals according to the decision of the regional healthcare authorities. On average it took from 1 to 3 days to prepare the shipment depending on the volume and complexity of the load.



The logistics is organized for all prepared shipments directly to the sub-regional hospitals. The recipient's database consists of around 100 hospitals from the different levels of the healthcare system, including primary healthcare centers and in-patient hospitals (both specialized and general). Shipments are performed for around 40-50

pallets per week according to the schedule. Additionally, emergency deliveries are performed as well, mostly focused on essential medicines.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO WORK FOR LEGISLATION STRENGTHENING PATIENT ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE, HIGH-QUALITY, MODERN AND SAFE MEDICINES

After several years of preparation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the new Law of Ukraine "On Medicinal Products" on July 28. The Law is designed to improve patient access to effective, high-quality, modern and safe medicines, and ensure a complete overhaul of the sphere of circulation of medicines in Ukraine based on best practices of international institutions and foreign states. The law comprehensively considers the provisions of European Union acts, specifically Directive No. 2001/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use.

SAFEMed, with the support of its local partner Legal Alliance, worked on key elements of the new legislation. These included updating all terminology, defining the NEML as a single positive list for public procurement, creating new principles for dispensing prescribed medicines, and introducing a national system of verification of medicines.

The implementation of most provisions of the law will require time, hence it will come into force 30 (for some rules, 60) months after the end of martial law.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST