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

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.

MPU STARTS DEVELOPMENT OF E-STOCK

User-friendly technologies are becoming inevitable supply chain management instruments worldwide and Ukraine is also going digital in the public system of medical procurement and supply chain management.

The long lasting challenge of lack of visibility into consumption levels and expiry dates and inadequate stock replenishment or redistribution of medicines in Ukrainian hospitals is going to be solved through implementation of a digital system of stock management: e-Stock. The system will enable transparent and efficient stock and consumption management of the commodities procured with state funding, including by the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) and international organizations as well as through the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP) and procurements done at regional levels. The data will be updated in real time and will be available for all hospitals of Ukraine, Departments of Health (DOH), and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH). Each entity will therefore be able to effectively monitor and manage their own stocks and consumption levels. The system will enhance productivity, decrease human made errors, and serve as a warning function to timely prevent critical stock outs or expiry issues at hospital for the benefit of patients.

By the end of the 2022, MPU, with USAID's SAFEMed Activity in Ukraine support, is designing and developing the e-Stock system, and is targeting completion of the initial foundational modules for the e-Stock system along with modules on demand collection and integration with other key state registers.

SAFEMED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GLOBAL COVAX INITIATIVE HELPED TO DELIVER VACCINES TO THE KYIV OBLAST WAREHOUSE

USAID supported the delivery of nearly 500,000 doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to Kyiv on July 12. The U.S. Government has donated more than 3.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ukraine since the start of the pandemic. Since the start of the war, USAID has also provided logistical support for the distribution of $380 million in donated medicines and medical supplies to communities across Ukraine.

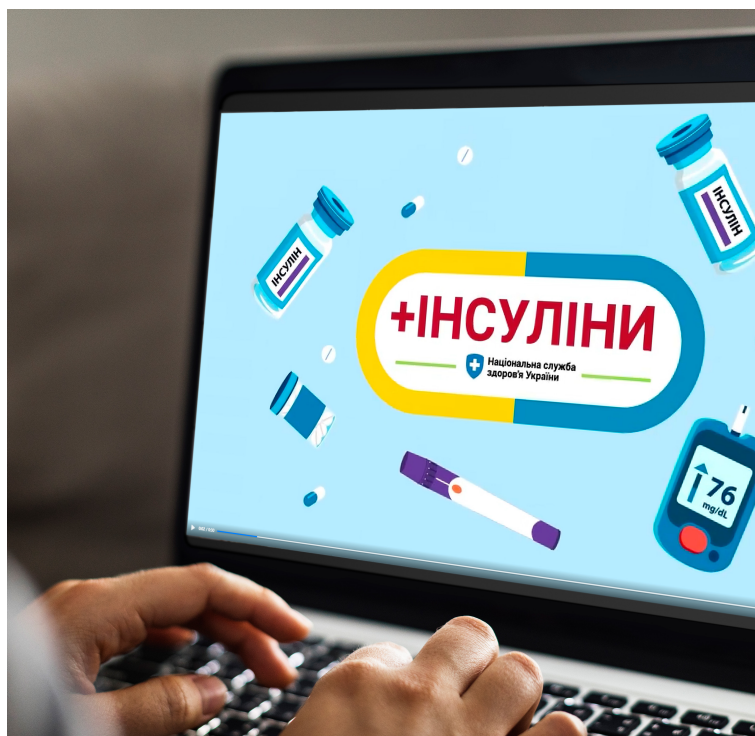Photo credit: SAFEMed

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SAFEMED SUPPORTED MPU TO REVISE ITS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ADDRESS NEW CHALLENGES

2022 brought unprecedented challenges and hardship to every Ukrainian organization, and MPU was no different. While continuing to remain true to its core purpose of making drugs available for the Ukrainian nation through a transparent and efficient system of public procurement, MPU faced many obstacles brought by unprovoked Russia's invasion to Ukraine: interrupted procurement and supply chain processes, a changing legislative environment, an acute need to enhance compliance mechanisms in line with keeping up the growing operational demand, and unstable economy.

SAFEMed supported MPU to organize a working session on August 6-7 for senior MPU staff to revise MPU's strategic priorities and response to new challenges. MPU is places emphasis on several new directions to meet the challenges. These include use of open framework agreements, splitting deliveries and decreasing the storage time, formula and reference pricing, international packaging and many others.

A key strategic priority for MPU remains the further development of technologies in procurement and supply chain through the development of e-Stock to ensure better stock management at hospitals and e-Catalog to become mandatory for all hospitals for essential medicines and equipment list commodities procurement.

SAFEMED HELPS CONNECTING PATIENTS TO MEDICINES IN UKRAINE

How does the AMP in Ukraine work under martial law? SAFEMed supported the creation of video-blurbs that describe what a patient needs to do to get the medicines they need, with step-by-step instructions.

These videos were shared on the National Health Service in Ukraine's (NHSU) Facebook page; the first one describes steps to take to get insulin.

WATCH THE VIDEO

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST