



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 HELPED MOH AND MPU LAUNCHED E-STOCK PILOT PROJECT



eStock is a national logistics information system envisioned to be able to track demand, stock consumption, delivery, and availability of medicines and medical devices across the entire health system. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) delegated the SE "Medical Procurement of Ukraine" (MPU) to develop and manage the eStock system. The USAID's SAFEMed Activity has been supporting MPU to design the first module focused on demand collection. On December 12, MPU held a meeting with key users, including hospitals and regional departments of health to introduce and validate the prototype and facilitate integration with the health information systems used at facility level. In addition, the team, with SAFEMed

assistance, planned a national pilot to collect demand for two directions covered by centralized procurement: oncology and endoprosthesis. **The pilot, now scheduled for the first week of January, will involve 135 health care facilities, 25 departments of Health with total number of 200 users.**

NHSU, MOH AND SAFEMED HOSTED THE FORUM "REIMBURSEMENT DURING THE WAR. SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT"

The national forum brought together key stakeholders to review progress of the state reimbursement program, as known as the Affordable Medicine Program. The Forum, held in a hybrid format, took place on December 9 with more than 120 participants from across the country. Invitees included representatives from industry, patient organizations and government agencies, family doctors and pharmacists. The National Health Services of Ukraine (NHSU) leaders shared that, despite the war, the program continued to expand: in 2022 the program increased from 401 to 435 trade names of medicines and expanded to include two new health conditions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and Parkinsons disease. At the same time, doctors in the temporarily occupied territories continued to write prescriptions for patients remotely. In total, since the beginning of the war more than 1.5 million Ukrainians received



Photo credit: SAFEMed

medicines for free or with a small pay. The NHSU also shared that as of 2023, the program will include three new ways: test strips for insulin-dependent patients, immunosuppressive medicines, and analgesics for palliative patients. **SAFEMed will continue to work closely with NHSU and other key partners, providing timely support for the successful development of the Reimbursement program in Ukraine.**

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY ESTABLISHMENT IN THE MEA USE

SAFEMed's support to the Government of Ukraine and MPU in the use of an innovative procurement tool - managed entry agreements (MEA) - brought its first results: negotiations over procurement of Risdiplam an innovative, high-cost medicine for the treatment of children with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) were completed. The drug was secured for 111 Ukrainian children suffering from SMA who will receive it free of charge next year. MEA successful first use represents an important expansion of medicines access for vulnerable Ukrainian patients and a significant improvement of their quality of life. Nine more innovative drugs will be made available for Ukrainian patients through MEA in the near future.

SAFEMED PARTICIPATED IN ALL-UKRAINIAN SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE "AFFORDABLE MEDICINES" PROGRAM: CURRENT ISSUES, TODAY'S PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS"

More than 500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, educators, scientists, and students from all over Ukraine attended the online conference served as a platform to discuss scientific, theoretical, and practical issues associated with the implementation of the Affordable Medicines Program, organized by Rivne Medical Academy on November 29. SAFEMed was represented by Senior Technical Advisor Anna Bezruk who delivered a presentation entitled "Improving access to safe, high-quality and affordable medicines: Activities of the USAID SAFEMed project in Ukraine". Topics included, among others, the training of pharmaceutical professionals, regulatory and legal issues, and provision of medical and pharmaceutical aid in wartime.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW E-TOOL FOR ARV QUANTIFICATION AND FORECASTING



Photo credit: SAFEMed

Aiming to receive feedback from the anticipated users of the recently developed quantification tool at regional level, MPU and Center for Public Health (CPH) organized a 2-day in person event supported by SAFEMed. Representatives from Odesa, Dnipro and Khmelnytskyi attended. Participants shared their perspectives on the value of the tool and ways to fine-tune it for most effective use. They also expressed interest in playing a

larger role in the process of preparing specifications for development of the tool. Once the tool is modified, CPH and MPU, with SAFEMed support, will organize its testing across the country, as well as training program development.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST