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MINISTRY
OF HEALTH
OF UKRAINE

THIRD NATIONAL HTA FORUM

Kyiv, Ukraine
SEPTEMBER 16–17, 2021



The forum was organized by the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Ukraine with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians (SAFEMed) Activity. The event brought together stakeholders who are contributing to the successful implementation of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Ukraine, including representatives from the Ukrainian parliamentary committee on the issues of health, medical care, and medical insurance; MOH; State Expert Center (SEC); National Health Service of Ukraine; Center of Public Health; Medical Procurement of Ukraine; State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control; scientific institutions; patient organizations; academia; hospitals, including clinicians; and industry.

In total, 228 attendees took part in person or online, and more than 50 experts contributed to the panels as moderators, panelists, or workshop participants. The meeting also hosted three international HTA experts. The lively discussions focused on a number of areas related to HTA.

Due to quarantine restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the forum was conducted using a hybrid model. All participants had the opportunity to join online and ask questions in real time in the chat platform. Representatives of the main organizations related to health care in Ukraine and participants in the panel discussions and roundtables were invited to the venue to discuss important issues related to the implementation of HTA in the country.

AGENDA

The forum agenda included discussions and activities regarding HTA implementation progress in Ukraine. The forum began with an update on HTA progress delivered by experts from the SEC of the MOH of Ukraine and reviewed activities and achievements of the HTA Department to date. It was followed by four panel discussions with representatives from different stakeholder groups:

PANEL 1

Next steps toward an independent HTA agency in Ukraine

PANEL 2

Next steps toward the creation of a positive list of pharmaceuticals under public coverage: Policy maker perspective

PANEL 3

Next steps toward the creation of a positive list of pharmaceuticals under public coverage: Broad stakeholder perspective

PANEL 4

From policy to practice: How to improve evidence-based decision making at the policy and clinical levels

PANEL 5

Horizon scanning: How to look for emerging technologies and emerging evidence

The event also hosted a roundtable on HTA for medical devices and an HTA capacity building workshop and brought stakeholders together to discuss the most important issues related to HTA implementation in Ukraine, moderated by HTA experts.

CONCLUSION

- The HTA ecosystem in Ukraine is evolving, and the meeting participation shows that the interest of key players continues to increase.
- Stakeholder engagement, particularly of patients and clinicians, continues to rise
- There is a need to continue stakeholder engagement and expand it to additional groups.
- The political will and stakeholder support for full implementation of HTA have been steadily increasing despite challenges and political changes.
- There is a need to discuss action steps to create the HTA agency as there is still concern about financial requirements, capacity, and a clear transition plan from the current department.
- The SEC is ready to support the department until the new agency is established and there is clear support from the MOH and other stakeholders for this. Stakeholders emphasize that the creation of the new agency should not be delayed significantly.
- Stakeholders strongly support the creation of a positive list in Ukraine.
- More meetings and discussions are needed to develop HTA for nondrug technologies as this area differs significantly from medicines.
- There is a clear need for high-quality education in HTA and to improve the capacity of trainers and education centers.
- Patient and clinician engagement is necessary and should be improved, but guidance based on international examples is needed.
- There must be more exploration of the feasibility of HB HTA in Ukraine. Clear guidance must be provided how HTA at the hospital level will be coordinated with the HTA function at the national level.
- Considering Ukraine is an important and emerging market for new technologies, horizon scanning offers important opportunities for early awareness of upcoming and valuable technologies.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

In a follow-up survey, **46 participants** in the third national HTA forum shared their opinions of the event. Of a maximum score of 5, participants rated:

★ **4,58**

forum
satisfaction

★ **4,6**

agenda
satisfaction

★ **4,4**

speakers
satisfaction

★ **4,47**

topics
satisfaction

★ **4,6**

technical
satisfaction

97,8%

respondents said that they would like to participate in the next forum. Suggestions for topics and speakers for future events were carefully noted for planning future events.

Learn more at msh.org/projects/safe-affordable-and-effective-medicines-for-ukrainians/