



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

## MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

APRIL 2023



### STATE EXPERT CENTER HOLDS "PHARMA@FOCUS ON THE PATIENT" PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

The State Expert Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine organized a forum on April 26 to discuss various pharmaceutical topics and areas of concern to local stakeholders. The event drew more than 160 participants from the Ministry of Health (MOH), the State Service of Medicines and Drug Control of Ukraine, drug manufacturers, scientific community experts, professional associations, and international partners, including USAID. The day-long forum covered issues such as registration/re-registration of medicines, pharmacovigilance, and health technologies assessment (HTA).

SAFEMed's Principal Technical Advisor Dr. Rabia Sucu delivered a virtual presentation titled "What do we need to bring HTA in Ukraine to a new level?". She emphasized the importance of strengthening the regulatory framework for HTA development, deepening cooperation with stakeholders, and enhancing the role of the HTA in the overall health care decision-making ecosystem.



Left to right: Valeriia Serediuk (Acting Head of the division division of economic evaluation of medicines, HTA Department of SEC of MOH), Iryna Romanenko (Head of the division of clinical and safety assessment of medicines, HTA Department of SEC of MOH), Oresta Piniashko (Director of HTA Department of SEC of MOH), Anton Voitenko (Technical Advisor, Pharmaceutical Policies and Governance, SAFEMed), Anna Bezruk (Senior Technical Officer, SAFEMed)

### About SAFEMed

*Our work in Ukraine aims to boost transparency, improve cost efficiency, and strengthen the pharmaceutical supply chain, ultimately leading to better availability and use of essential medicines and health commodities for TB, HIV and AIDS, COVID-19, and noncommunicable diseases. We support the Government of Ukraine in its ongoing efforts to reform its health care system in the wake of the war.*

### SAFEMED CONTINUES TO HELP EXPAND MPU'S CAPABILITIES

Since its establishment in 2018, the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) has gradually evolved to become a premier national health procurement organization. Gaining valuable expertise in category management and supplier management, the state agency is now financially independent and capable of performing centralized procurements of all commodities on behalf of the MOH. A next step in the agency's development toward a full-cycle supply chain organization is the ongoing work to merge with Ukrmedpostach, another MOH state agency that specializes in logistics with assets and permits for storage and distribution of health commodities. In anticipation of the soon-to-be finalized

merger, SAFEMed is encouraging both entities to participate in a logistics assessment exercise, which will help in developing recommendations for reducing warehouse costs, optimizing and automating operations, reducing errors, improving accounting accuracy, and freight traffic operations.

Accurate and real time visibility into health commodities from the national level to the health care facility level is essential to building a high-quality, sustainable procurement and supply chain system in Ukraine. In early 2022, MPU was tapped by the MOH to play a leadership role in the development of e-Stock, the national health commodities logistics management system. Since then, SAFEMed has been supporting MPU and the MOH in the development of the first modules of the system and successfully completed a pilot of the demand collection module earlier this year. This month, with SAFEMed's support, MPU is tackling the development of the procurement module for e-Stock, which will enable processing the procurement and delivery of medical commodities for any organization undertaking procurement. This stage of development will take approximately six months to complete.

## SAFEMED PARTICIPATES IN THE WHO'S "POLICY DIALOGUE – CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS" IN KAZAKHSTAN



Photo credit: SAFEMed

World Health Organization/Europe, Division of Country Health Policies and Systems (CPS), and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies organized a policy dialogue on access to medicine for Central Asian Republics in Almaty, Kazakhstan on April 18-19, 2023. Representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan shared their experiences while external experts offered reflections on practices in other settings. SAFEMed's Principal Technical Advisor Dr. Rabia Sucu was invited to present and illustrated how Ukraine's experience in HTA and the Affordable Medicines Program serves as a good example of expanding access to effective medicines.

## SAFEMED DEVELOPS ANIMATED VIDEOS TO PROMOTE THE EHEALTH SYSTEM

As part of MOH's media campaign to promote the new ePrescription program, SAFEMed supported a series of animation videos development on the benefits of using and instructions for connecting to the national electronic healthcare (eHealth) system. Every day more and more health care facilities and doctors- entrepreneurs are joining it. This is a single digital space where all information about the patient's health is contained and services such as e-declarations, e-prescriptions and referrals, medical reports, and other tools are available.

Watch the videos:

What is an electronic healthcare system and how does it function today?

eHealth is a single digital space for your health

eHealth for doctors: how to join private clinics and doctors-entrepreneurs

eHealth and pharmacies: registration and digital services

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