



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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MOH HOLDS POLICY DIALOGUE ON STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISING PHARMACEUTICAL COSTS

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), with support from USAID, hosted a policy dialogue on May 18th to discuss ways to manage the rising cost of medicines due to the war. More than 80 participants came together to review the effectiveness of external price referencing (EPR), which the government introduced as a potential means to reducing costs. Many leaders in the field attended, including the head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine's Health Care Subcommittee on National Health, Medical Care and Health Insurance, Maksym Perebyinis; expert in the pharmaceutical Directorate of the MOH, Oleksander Gritsenko; and SAFEMed's Acting Chief of Party, Sergey Strashuk, who gave opening remarks. Dr. Oresta Piniashko, Director of the HTA Department of the State Expert Center, provided an overview of the pricing interventions while Nina Zimmerman, a WHO regional expert, and Dr. Rabia Sucu, SAFEMed's Principal Technical Advisor, analyzed the impact of pricing interventions on the pharmaceutical market.

Following the formal presentations, SAFEMed's Technical Advisor, Anton Voitenko, facilitated a roundtable discussion with representatives from the MOH, the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), and local and global pharmaceutical associations and academics. This helped gather broad stakeholder perspectives on the issue and identify potential next steps for securing fair prices in Ukraine. Specifically, stakeholders agreed that drafting a broad pharmaceutical pricing strategy for Ukraine would be valuable moving forward.

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.

CMU PASSES DECREE TO IMPROVE VACCINE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) passed Decree 298 on May 12th, transferring the duty of vaccine logistics management from the regional health care administrations to the regional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (rCDCs). The creation of this legal framework serves as a critical milestone toward making rCDCs fully functional. As outlined in the decree, the national level will distribute vaccines to rCDCs' warehouses, which will provide storage services and transport vaccines to the service delivery points. Various partners have donated equipment to help strengthen Ukraine's public health system, including cold rooms, refrigerators, and specialized vehicles for transportation, and enabling rCDCs to tackle these supply chain functions allows them

to take advantage of these expanded capabilities. The rCDCs will be also responsible for monitoring and analyzing vaccine supply chain data and communicating with the service delivery points that offer vaccination services.

These changes aim to strengthen the overall coordination of the National Immunization Program and reinforce the Ukrainian Government's efforts to control vaccine-preventable diseases. SAFEMed provided advisory and technical support to the MOH during the policy development process and continues to support the drafting of legal actions to further define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the sphere of vaccine supply chain management.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO HELP THE MPU EXPAND THE MEDICAL E-CATALOG

Over the last several years, the MPU has administered the medical e-Catalog as part of the Prozorro Market, a systematized database of pre-vetted products from suppliers designed to serve regional health care institutions who are responsible for procuring medical commodities. Encouraging regional purchasers to use the e-Catalog simplifies the procurement process for medical institutions, shortens delivery lead times, increases predictability of procurement, and creates transparent competition and equal opportunity for all market participants.

The MPU is taking a multipronged approach to further expand and institutionalize the e-Catalog. This approach involves increasing the number of medicines from the National Essential Medical List (NEML) available on the e-Catalog, providing high-quality administration of the e-Catalog to facilitate simple and transparent procurement procedures, and, for the MPU itself, breaking even on costs versus revenue for the program. The MPU hopes to reach the break-even point in the 3rd quarter of 2023, in part by increasing the total number of products (INNs from the NEML) to 450. Through two category managers and awareness activities, SAFEMed is supporting the MPU to establish a comprehensive management system and further improve the regional procurement process through the e-Catalog.

SAFEMED HELPS DEVELOP ANIMATED VIDEO ON THE MPU'S 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Despite Russia's brutal war against Ukraine, the MPU has been able to adapt and continues to provide Ukrainians with free-of-charge medicines and medical equipment. Over the past year, the MPU successfully procured more than 96% of the planned items as part of the state-funded Central Procurement Program. SAFEMed supported the development of an animated video to highlight such results achieved in 2022. The video is posted on the MPU Facebook page.

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