



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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SAFEMED STAFF HELP TRAIN REGIONAL EXPERTS ON COLD CHAIN AND VACCINE MANAGEMENT



Photo credit: SAFEMed

USAID's SAFEMed Activity supported two national training sessions on cold chain and vaccine management on August 3-4 and August 8-9. These training sessions were organized by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH), Center for Public Health (CPH), and UNICEF to provide knowledge sharing and skills building among around 120 experts from regional centers for disease control (rCDCs) and regional health care departments. Through these trainings, regional experts learned proper handling guidelines for

modern WHO prequalified cold chain equipment, key principals on vaccine management and temperature monitoring, and information on effective quantification, forecasting, and supply planning.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UKRAINE'S PATIENT CALL CENTER

Ukraine's patient call center has been a critical resource for patients and continues to help the country improve access to medicines. With support from SAFEMed, the CF Patients of Ukraine manages the call center and tracks patients' concerns. In its most recent interim report, covering calls from April 1 – June 30 of 2023, the center received 623



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.

USAID Ukraine - USAID Україна
9 Іюнь

За сприяння USAID, українці отримують необхідні їм ліки. За нашої підтримки в Україні діє кол-центр для пацієнтів, який відстежує наявність ліків і допомагає усувати дефіцит основних препаратів. Протягом квітня 2023 р. до нього надійшло 262 звернення про відсутність у лікарнях тих чи інших ліків. Ця інформація була направлена ДП Медичні закупівлі України – основній державній установі у цій сфері, яка нині працює над усуненням прогалин у доступі до медикаментів.

Кол-центр працює цілодобово та без вихідних за тел. (+38096) 288-80-03 та (+38095) 288-80-05. USAID підтримує його роботу у рамках свого проєкту SAFEMed спільно з українським благодійним фондом Пацієнти України, який присвячує свою діяльність питанням громадського здоров'я.

USAID helps Ukrainians access the medicines they need. We support Ukraine's Patient Call Center, which tracks the availability of medicines for patients and helps address shortages of key medicines. During April, the call center received 262 calls about the lack of certain medications at hospitals. This data was routed to Ukraine's central procurement agency, Medical Procurement of Ukraine, which is working to address gaps in medicine access.

The Patient Call Center is available 24/7 at +38 (096) 288 80 03 and +38 (095) 288 80 05. It is supported by USAID through the SAFEMed program in partnership with Patients of Ukraine, a local NGO devoted to public health.

calls from patients or their caregivers. More than half of callers raised concerns about access to oncology medicines, while others expressed issues in accessing hepatitis C medicines.

To ensure government entities and local leaders are aware of these issues, SAFEMed and Patients of Ukraine have been in touch with the MOH, Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), and the CPH to identify actions to address these patient concerns. Additionally, to further build on these collaborative efforts, SAFEMed is supporting the development of a call center communication plan as well as a sustainability plan to secure ongoing support for the call center in the future.

SAFEMED SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR THROUGH THE CREATION OF A UNIFIED MEDICINES REGULATORY BODY

On Ukraine's Independence Day, August 24th, SAFEMed and the State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control (SMDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Kyiv to coordinate strategies and best practices for establishing a unified medicines regulatory body. MOH selected SMDC to serve as the basis for this new enterprise, and this MOU serves as a guide for SMDC and SAFEMed to collaborate and report progress on this effort. Under the MOU, SAFEMed commits to providing technical and legal support to SMDC in creating a unified medicines regulatory body that is in line with European Union legislation and ensures the safety and quality of medicines on the Ukrainian market. SAFEMed plans to work with the SMDC to take stock of its current IT systems and processes and make recommendations to better prepare the institution for its expanded mandate in the coming years.



“The creation of a unified medicines regulatory body is an important step for the country. SMDC is confident that the work we will do together with SAFEMed will contribute to strengthening the SMDC institutional capacity” – noted SMDC Head.

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