



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 2024



SAFEMED PROVIDES MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT TO REGIONAL WAREHOUSES WITH DELIVERY OF FORKLIFTS

Regional warehouses in Ukraine are responsible for receiving, organizing, storing, and distributing medical commodities to health care facilities. It's critical that these warehouses have the capacity and resources to meet ever-changing needs to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of state-funded and humanitarian aid supplies. To help these warehouses better manage the influx of medical goods during the war, USAID's SAFEMed Activity procured forklifts for warehouses in two regions that have been significantly impacted by this wartime challenge.

SAFEMed helped secure the transfer of forklifts to two regional warehouses in Odesa and one in Mykolaiv. Both regions have seen a dramatic increase in the volume of medical aid being brought in, which has made it difficult for these regional warehouses to keep up without additional support. Despite being subjected to constant shelling, the staff at these warehouses have displayed exceptional resilience and worked tirelessly to manage incoming supplies.



On January 26, SAFEMed representatives visited Odesa to officially hand over the first of the three forklifts. The acting director of the Odesa regional health care department participated in the event and expressed gratitude to USAID and SAFEMed for easing their workload through this initiative. These forklifts will not only help ensure the swift delivery of medicines and medical devices to Ukrainians, but also better optimize human resources to improve productivity and value.

SAFEMED AND MOH SHARE STATUS UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL MEDICINES VERIFICATION SYSTEM

On January 15, more than 140 participants joined an online meeting to discuss the progress and recent updates in the establishment of a national medicines verification system in Ukraine. During the session, SAFEMed and legal partners presented on key aspects of the development and implementation of the system. This included the latest changes to the CMU Decree, which was published for public discussion on January 9; considerations based on the European experience on models of membership, management, and operational models; and an overview of potential IT providers' experience.

Minister of Health Viktor Liashko, along with other dignitaries, kicked off the meeting by emphasizing their strong commitment to this reform. Deputy Minister for Digitization Mariia Karchevych highlighted important next steps in line with the implementation roadmap and recognized the key role that stakeholders play in progressing the creation of the national medicines verification organization. There was also time for participants to ask questions and share comments.

About SAFEMed

The Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines (SAFEMed) for Ukrainians Activity is designed to support the Government of Ukraine in its ongoing efforts to reform its health care system and expand access to affordable and reliable medicines. With support from USAID and PEPFAR, MSH provides technical and legal assistance to strengthen Ukraine's pharmaceutical sector. 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.

Manufacturers and associations asked important questions about the new organization regarding its proposed functions, membership requirements and fees, and requested a comparison between these fees and those of similar bodies in Europe. Representatives of the pharmaceutical industry expressed support for the verification system and agency development, noting that these would serve as important steps toward Ukraine's European integration. SAFEMed will continue to provide comprehensive technical support to the Government of Ukraine in its efforts to implement a national medicines verification system.

SAFEMED CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF e-Stock SYSTEM TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Following the launch of the first module on demand collection in 2023, the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU), with SAFEMed support, successfully completed the second module on procurement in January 2024. This module helped consolidate information into a unified and efficient system, an important goal for e-Stock in supporting the procurement and supply chain management cycle. MPU and SAFEMed developed the procurement module by:



Establishing a secure foundation for the e-Stock system



Strengthening communication channels for seamless collaboration



Creating a comprehensive repository for procurement-related information



Implementing a dynamic system to manage procurement statuses



Ensuring real-time data synchronization for accuracy

The procurement module not only serves as a crucial foundation for upcoming initiatives but also facilitates the development of the next two planned modules: Logistics Management and Accounting in healthcare institutions. Work on the latter begins with the support of SAFEMed, while World Bank is expected to support the development of the logistics management module. These structural changes in the e-Stock system will further enhance the system's functionality and adaptability. The concerted efforts by MPU and SAFEMed reflect a transformative step in health care management, setting a precedent for enhanced coordination, resource allocation, and overall effectiveness within the health care system.

SAFEMED VISITED THE OFFICE OF REGISTRATION OF MEDICINES, MEDICAL DEVICES AND BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS IN WARSAW



Photo credit: SEC

At the end of December 2023, SAFEMed leadership staff from Management Sciences for Health (MSH) visited the Polish regulatory agency to discuss the level of Ukrainian legislation adaptation into European Union (EU) regulatory documents. The delegation included Deputy Chief of Party Sergey Strashuk and Senior Technical Advisor on Pharmaceutical Governance and Financing Olena Filiniuk, along with MOH State Expert Center (SEC) Director Mykhailo Babenko and Head of the State Service of Ukraine for Medicines and Drug Control Roman Isaienko. Legislation included regulations and procedures regarding the quality of medicines, conduction of inspections on good manufacturing practice, and good distribution practice. The president of the Office of Registration of Medicines, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products of Poland, Mr. Grzegorz Cessak, presented information on the

functions and areas of authority of the regulatory body, highlighting specifics around the regulation of medicines and medical devices in Poland. Members of his team shared their experience harmonizing national legislation in accordance with EU requirements, discussing lessons learned from the EU Twining technical assistance project and applicable legislation regulating to conduct the clinical trials and inspections. To close the meeting, participants discussed practical issues and prospects for further cooperation as Ukraine continues to take steps toward EU accession.

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