



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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NHSU AND SAFEMED HOST 2024 REIMBURSEMENT FORUM

On April 17, the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) and USAID's SAFEMed Activity held the 2024 Reimbursement Forum to discuss the achievements of the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP) and goals for the future. The forum was inaugurated by First Deputy of the Minister of Health (MOH) Serhii Dubrov; Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Public Health, Medical Care, and Medical Insurance Mykhailo Radutskyi; Head of the NHSU Nataliia Husak; and USAID Ukraine Acting Deputy Mission Director Jeffrey Lehrer. SAFEMed's Senior Technical Advisor on Pharmaceutical Governance and Financing moderated the forum, while other representatives from USAID and SAFEMed as well as family physicians, pharmacy network representatives, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and patient organizations participated in the event. Representatives from the GOU and USAID emphasized the effectiveness of the AMP in ensuring Ukrainians can access the medicines they need at little to no cost, while also demonstrating their commitment to continuously improving the program. The World Café format of the event helped encourage dynamic discussions around ways to build on the program's success. Participants broke into groups to discuss five critical questions linked to increased program efficiency and performance, including ePrescriptions, patient adherence, program accessibility in rural areas, and procedures for expansion.



Photo credit: NHSU

NHSU facilitators recorded these ideas and plan to analyze all participant recommendations and integrate these valuable insights into future strengthening of the AMP.

SAFEMED HOSTS TRAINING ON HORIZON SCANNING FOR HTA

On April 10 and April 23, SAFEMed hosted a two-day training on Horizon Scanning for health technology assessment (HTA) experts. Horizon Scanning is a research process that aims to determine the areas with the greatest potential for analyzed medicines/medical devices in the health care system based on the available and often very preliminary clinical data. Considered an important policy tool in ensuring patient access to new and innovative medicines, it is still considerably underdeveloped throughout the world.

Since Ukraine has a largely generic pharmaceutical market that is not always an attractive environment for companies developing innovative health technologies, Horizon Scanning can be utilized as a tool for defining those technologies

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.

which can then be engaged on the Ukrainian market to cover patients' needs in specific areas. During the 8-hour online training session, international HTA expert Dr. Iñaki Gutierrez Ibarluzea provided participants with valuable insights and tools for effective Horizon Scanning practices. SAFEMed will continue supporting this capacity building activity in Ukraine, which will be followed by the practical pilot project for HTA experts of HTA Department of SEC within medicines for HIV treatment, as well as medical devices for HIV detection.

SAFEMED SUPPORTS NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PROZORRO MARKET

Supported by SAFEMed, the Prozorro Market offers customers a seamless, transparent, and cost-effective procurement experience. It covers a diverse range of items, from complex medical equipment like ambulances and MRIs, to simpler supplies like stationery.

Over six months, SAFEMed partnered with Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) to advance the adoption of the Prozorro Market electronic catalog (eCatalog) across Ukraine through a series of initiatives. They organized regional trainings and hosted a webinar attended by 500 healthcare facilities across Ukraine. The effort culminated in the seminar, "Prozorro Market - Fast and Convenient Procurement Tool," held in Kyiv in March 2024.



Photo credit: MPU

Over 140 representatives from healthcare facilities, USAID, SAFEMed, other donors, and implementing partners were in attendance.

Officials from USAID, Ministry of Economy, MOH, and MPU, provided insight into the streamlined purchasing process enabled by Prozorro Market. Further discussions focused on product quality within the eCatalog, measurement standardization, and expansion of mandatory categories. Representatives from SE Professional Procurement, Zakupivli.Pro, PlayTender, E-tender.UA, the National Cancer Institute, and Irpin Central City Hospital served in a panel discussion on these topics as well.

Overall, Prozorro Market and SAFEMed initiatives aim to assist healthcare facilities in making well-informed procurement decisions, ensuring access to quality products at competitive prices.

SAFEMED CONDUCTS MID-PROJECT YEAR REVIEW



Photo credit: SAFEMed

To continue the strong momentum in program implementation, identify areas for improvement, and enhance project cohesion in the last 18 months of the project, senior members of the USAID SAFEMed Activity management team held an in-person, three-day working session in Lviv from April 22 to 24.

During the meeting, the team reviewed PY7 half-year progress, achievements, and challenges. This work explored select indicators to understand success factors influencing target achievement, especially in the context of the war, and opportunities for the project to refine strategies and activities to continue to thrive. The team highlighted the effectiveness of the Activity's communications strategy in particular. The meeting closed with team recommendations for adjustments to the work plan to implement on time and within budget, as well as setting priorities for PY8.

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