



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

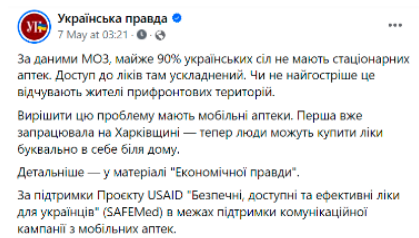
MAY 2024



SAFEMED HELPS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MOBILE PHARMACIES

With support from the USAID's SAFEMed Activity, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) launched a new communication campaign in May 2024 to improve the work of mobile pharmacy points (MPPs). MPPs help ensure that patients in remote regions of Ukraine that lack access to stationary pharmacies still can receive the medicines and medical devices they need. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about these services among primary care physicians and the public, emphasizing the role MPPs play in expanding the outreach of the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP), which covers the cost of medicines for the most common chronic diseases.

The communication campaign will tap into various channels, including social media, radio, publication in the national media outlet "Economichna Pravda," and information materials, to educate and engage local communities and stakeholders about the benefits of MPPs. The pilot campaign will take place in the Cherkasy region, where local radio stations have already started to broadcast information about MPPs services and are expected to reach more than 200,000 people. As the communication campaign helps to increase engagement with MPPs, it will also help in achieving the overarching goal of improving access to affordable, quality health care to all Ukrainians, including those in hard-to-reach areas.



SAFEMED PROVIDES THREE FORKLIFTS TO REGIONAL WAREHOUSES



Photo credit: SAFEMed

Over the last several months, SAFEMed procured and delivered three new forklifts to warehouses in the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions. The Odesa region, which has multiple warehouses, received two forklifts to support facilities handling the largest volumes of medical supplies. These warehouses were designated by regional health departments and have been pivotal in receiving, sorting, storing, and distributing humanitarian aid and medical supplies from various sources, including the MOH, WHO, UNICEF, and other donors. The Mykolaiv region has also been significantly impacted by the war and received one forklift to support its single warehouse.

The newly delivered forklifts are already operational and making a tangible difference. They have significantly expedited the unloading process, particularly for large-sized equipment, thereby freeing up human resources for more productive and valuable activities. This equipment not only streamlines operations but also ensures that medical supplies and devices reach their intended recipients.

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.

quickly and efficiently.

By addressing the logistical bottlenecks that have plagued these warehouses, SAFEMed is helping to create a more responsive and effective health care system that has the capacity to ensure the right aid reaches the most vulnerable in a timely manner, even amidst wartime challenges.

MPU AND SAFEMED PARTICIPATE IN 10TH PHARMA SUPPLY CHAIN & LOGISTICS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Representatives from the Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) and SAFEMed attended a two-day pharmaceutical supply chain event this past month in Basel, Switzerland. The event served as a platform for insightful discussions and knowledge sharing among industry leaders, supply chain experts, and professionals dedicated to shaping the future of pharmaceutical logistics.

On day one, attendees delved into critical aspects of supply chain integration, planning, and sustainability. Presentations from Tracelink and Veratrak showcased innovative platforms unifying the industry and offering flexible integration options. Discussions with stakeholders like Pfizer provided insights into data exchange

complexities and sustainability initiatives, emphasizing the shift towards eco-friendly transportation logistics.

Day two explored sourcing strategies, data integrity, and negotiation techniques. Presentations underscored the importance of data quality and the adoption of digital solutions for enhanced transparency and efficiency. Knowledge shared around negotiation tactics and market entry strategies provided attendees with valuable guidance for navigating the complexities of pharmaceutical logistics.

MPU representatives learned about the importance of robust data management practices to improve operational efficiency, which is crucial for optimizing procurement processes and ensuring timely and accurate delivery of medicines. Additionally, the introduction of digital solutions such as block chain highlighted the need for increased transparency and traceability in the supply chain. This knowledge will help the MPU improve the safety and reliability of its supply chain operations. Effective negotiation skills, such as setting reasonable goals and practicing active listening, will also be helpful for the MPU in establishing and maintaining successful business relationships.



SAFEMED PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHALLENGES FACING VARIOUS LEVELS OF MEDICAL CARE PROVISION



On May 16-17, leaders and representatives across the health care sector came together to discuss the current obstacles they are facing in administering clinical, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitation services in the Rivne region. Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and share their thoughts and reflections as well as hear from various health facility leaders who shared their achievements, acknowledged the challenges ahead, and deliberated on further steps needed to enhance the performance of their institutions.

Part of the conference was dedicated to the implementation of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in health facilities. The integration of hospital HTA is especially pertinent within the context of optimizing the development of a robust network of

health facilities in the region. SAFEMed's Senior Technical Advisor led a presentation during this segment, titled Hospital HTA: Prospects of Implementation.

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