



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

QUARTERLY NEWS DIGEST

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EXPANDING ACCESS TO MEDICINES: SAFEMED SUPPORT FOR THE “UKRPOST. PHARMACY” COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

In 2024, Ukraine's national postal service, Ukrpost, partnered with the Ministry of Health (MOH), the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), and the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine to launch the **Ukrpost. Pharmacy** initiative. This program enables Ukrainians to order medicines, including those available under the Affordable Medicines Program, and receive them at any Ukrpost branch. With free delivery to branch locations, the initiative significantly improves access to safe, high-quality medicines - particularly in frontline areas where pharmacies have been destroyed or are no longer operational due to the war.

The USAID/SAFEMed Activity played a key role in supporting this initiative by launching a pilot communication campaign in the Donetsk region in August-September 2024. Following the campaign, the NHSU reported an increase in the number of Affordable Medicines Program prescriptions filled in the third quarter of the year. As of September 2024, a total of 179,719 electronic prescriptions were issued in the Donetsk region, 71% of which were reimbursed.

Building on this success, the MOH, supported by SAFEMed, expanded the campaign in December 2024 to seven additional regions near the frontlines (Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and Mykolaiv). These areas face critical shortages of pharmacies and limited access to essential medications.



Photo credit: Ukrpost

To reach residents in these regions, the campaign leveraged national and regional media, informational brochures for family doctors, radio advertisements, and social media outreach. As a result, the initiative garnered over one million views, raising awareness of how Ukrainians can access medicines through **Ukrpost. Pharmacy**, including those available under the Affordable Medicines Program.

ЯК ЗАМОВИТИ «ДОСТУПНІ ЛІКИ» ЧЕРЕЗ УКРПОШТУ

- Отримайте електронний рецепт у свого сімейного лікаря.
- Зателефонуйте за номером 0 800 300 545.
- Назвіть оператору номер е-рецепту (16 цифр) та код погашення (4 цифри).
- Вкажіть свої контактні дані та адресу доставки.

Замовляйте ліки за програмою «Доступні ліки» через Укрпошту

Укрпошта уклала договір з Національною службою здоров'я України. Це означає, що ви можете отримати ліки безплатно або з невеликою доплатою за електронним рецептом, як і у звичайній аптеці.

Що можна замовити?

- ✓ Ліки та медичні вироби за програмою «Доступні ліки» за такими напрямками;
- ✓ Інші рецептурні та безрецептурні препарати, які не входять в програму «Доступні ліки». Ви сплачуєте лише вартість препарату.

Зверніть увагу! Через Укрпошту не можна замовити інсуліни, психотропні, наркотичні засоби, прекурсори, сильнодіючі отруйні, радіоактивні лікарські засоби та медичні імунобіологічні препарати.

Безплатна доставка доступна для всіх жителів України, зокрема й на прифронтових територіях.

Поділіться з рідними цим постом!

t.me/blyskavka_ua/133199 53.7K • Dec 9 at 09:30

Photo credit: USAID/SAFEMed

ADVANCING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF UKRAINE'S MEDICAL PROCUREMENT

The Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) is modernizing its operations with SAP, a leading business enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, to enhance procurement and contract management. With USAID/SAFEMed support, MPU is configuring and adapting SAP modules to align with Ukrainian legislation and streamline centralized procurement.

While SAP systems have been used in Ukraine's commercial sector for decades, its introduction into public healthcare procurement is a major milestone. MPU had already adopted the SAP Ariba module back in 2022 to better manage procurement, suppliers, and contracts all in response to challenges faced in early days of the war:

In 2024-2025, SAFEMed helped develop a change management plan for implementation of SAP S/4HANA, the latest version of the SAP business system that is designed to integrate all of a company's core processes and relevant data, streamline operations, and give users real-time information for better decision-making.

Once fully operational, the SAP-driven ERP will automate key processes, reducing procurement contract creation from a week to a single day, making inventory tracking instantaneous, and cutting delivery times from 40 to 15 minutes. The system will replace manual financial workflows, reducing budget forecasting from two weeks to a few days, while also streamlining hiring and payroll management. With these advancements, MPU is already seeing significant efficiency gains. SAFEMed continues to support this transformation, ensuring medicine procurement becomes faster, more transparent, and more effective — helping patients receive essential medications without delay.

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.

UKRAINE'S FIRST HOSPITAL-BASED HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PILOT — A STEP TOWARD BETTER TREATMENT



Ukraine has successfully completed its first pilot of Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment (HB-HTA), an evidence-based approach to evaluating medical technologies at the hospital level. With the rapid development of medical technologies, their assessment at the hospital level holds great potential. This process will address questions regarding the effectiveness, safety, and cost-efficiency of new technologies that healthcare institutions may want to purchase. Hospital leaders will be able to independently make decisions about the implementation or rejection of medical technologies.

Supported by SAFEMed, the pilot took place over one year at the Amosov National Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery. In June 2023, SAFEMed signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Institute, the State Expert Center of the MOH, and the Bogomolets National Medical University. The pilot assessed the clinical effectiveness, safety, and cost-efficiency of using skirted aortic valves for transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) in patients with aortic stenosis – an advanced technology with the potential to improve patient outcomes. The results of the pilot were presented during a roundtable at the Amosov Institute in December 2024, with more than 30 participants in attendance.

During the event SAFEMed presented the progress made in implementing HB-HTA in Ukraine and emphasized its value as a decision-making tool for hospitals, especially in the context of decentralization. The pilot team shared key lessons learned, underscoring the importance of a motivated multidisciplinary working group, sufficient time for conducting assignments, support from hospital leadership, and close adherence to HB-HTA best practices.



The pilot generated strong interest among hospital staff, particularly because it improves decision-making regarding budget allocation and the procurement of health technologies.

By integrating HB-HTA into hospital management, healthcare facilities can make more informed, cost-effective investment and management decisions based on real clinical practice. In an environment of limited financial resources, this approach is especially valuable. The pilot results indicate strong potential for expanding the HB-HTA methodology to other Ukrainian hospitals, helping improve healthcare quality and strategic decision-making nationwide.

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