



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

JULY 2025



MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED: ESTOCK CORE MODULES FULLY OPERATIONAL

The USAID/SAFEMed Activity is pleased to mark a major milestone in strengthening Ukraine's digital health infrastructure: the full completion and deployment of the four core modules of the national logistics management information system, eStock — Demand, Procurement, Accounting, and Logistics. This achievement reflects years of collaborative development, rigorous testing, and committed implementation by SAFEMed, vendors, and national and international stakeholders, despite ongoing operational challenges.

eStock is the backbone of Ukraine's digital medical supply chain. It automates the end-to-end lifecycle of medicines and medical devices — from demand forecasting and procurement to warehousing, distribution, and real-time utilization tracking. As of 2025, over 90% of national medical demand has been generated and consolidated within eStock, helping ensure more efficient, transparent, and accountable procurement processes.

In recent months, SAFEMed finalized the development of the Accounting and Logistics modules, officially completing the system's core architecture. Key activities included:

- System stabilization and refinement based on user stories and feedback
- Completion of load testing to validate system performance and resilience under operational conditions
- Development of comprehensive technical documentation, including Application Programming Interface references, integration guides, and user manuals. These efforts ensure that eStock is not only fully functional but ready for nationwide use, with documented workflows, clear procedures, and verified technical performance.

SAFEMed is now investing in key enhancements, including secure migration of legacy data and transitioning the hosting environment to a government-accredited data center, aligned with cybersecurity and data sovereignty standards.

To ensure sustainability, SAFEMed is also working with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to formally transfer all rights and ownership of the eStock platform — a crucial step toward full national control and long-term support.



HOSPITAL-BASED HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT LAUNCHES IN NIZHYN: ADVANCING EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



SAFEMed team together with representatives of the SEC, Nizhyn City Council, and the Central City Hospital.
Photo credit: SAFEMed

On July 16, the city of Nizhyn in Chernihiv region hosted a kick-off meeting for the introduction of Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment (HB-HTA) — a tool that supports evidence-based decision-making and helps healthcare facilities use public funds more efficiently. The event was organized by Nizhyn City Hall in partnership with the State Expert Center of the MOH (SEC) and with support from SAFEMed.

This is the first such initiative following the HB-HTA national pilot in Kyiv, opening new opportunities to improve service quality in local hospitals. HB-HTA helps assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of equipment, procedures, and medicines prior to investment, resulting in fewer ineffective purchases and more benefits for patients.

The meeting brought together representatives of Nizhyn City Hall, hospital management, SEC experts, and the SAFEMed team. Discussion covered implementation experiences in Ukraine and international best practices, as well as barriers to adoption and data analysis for decision-making.

As a next step, SAFEMed will conduct training for stakeholders including the Municipal Non-Commercial Enterprise "Nizhyn Central City Hospital named after M.Galitsky." The training will build practical skills in conducting HB-HTA, interpreting data, and applying findings to inform facility-level management and investment decisions.

This capacity-building initiative aims to empower healthcare professionals and administrators to make cost-effective, evidence-based, and patient-centered decisions, ultimately strengthening hospital governance and improving patient outcomes. This approach is expected to be scaled to other hospitals across Ukraine.

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.

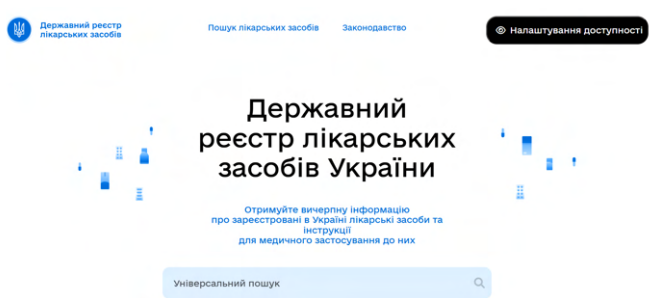
UKRAINE LAUNCHES UPGRADED NATIONAL REGISTER OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS TO ADVANCE PHARMACEUTICAL TRANSPARENCY AND SAFETY

In June 2025, the MOH officially launched the upgraded National Register of Medicinal Products (NRM), marking a major step in modernizing pharmaceutical regulation and improving access to essential health data. The new system replaces the outdated legacy platform and is built on a secure, scalable architecture that offers better performance, usability, and interoperability.

The NRM serves as Ukraine's central digital database for all registered medicinal products. With enhanced search capabilities, structured datasets, and integration-ready design, the NRM will support healthcare providers, pharmacists, government institutions, and the public in making informed, data-driven decisions.

In the future, the updated NRM will underpin a range of digital health tools—supporting smarter prescribing, procurement planning, reimbursement, and pharmacovigilance. Built on international data standards, it is interoperable with key platforms such as the Electronic Healthcare System (EHS) and eStock.

SAFEMed supported the MOH throughout the data migration process and helped coordinate efforts among stakeholders and IT vendors. The public version is now available at: <https://drlz.info/register/>, offering transparent, up-to-date access to registered medicinal products.



RAISING AWARENESS OF ACCESS TO MEDICINES THROUGH MOBILE PHARMACIES IN REMOTE AREAS

Around 90% of Ukrainian villages lack fixed pharmacies, leaving many residents — particularly in frontline communities impacted by Russia's full-scale invasion—without access to essential medicines, according to the MOH. In response, the MOH launched the mobile pharmacy initiative, partnering with private and municipal pharmacy chains to extend pharmacy services to underserved areas. As a trusted partner, SAFEMed has supported this effort by contributing to legal frameworks and raising awareness in participating regions.

As of May 2025, 31 mobile pharmacy points are operating in 17 regions, providing both prescription and over-the-counter medicines — including for free or reimbursed medicines under the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP).

In May, SAFEMed ran information campaigns in ten regions — Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Poltava, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Zhytomyr, and Rivne — targeting people with chronic diseases and the family doctors, nurses, and paramedics who provide their care.



Brochures distributed to family doctors

Key activities included:

- Distribution of 6,000 brochures to family doctors
- Radio advertisements reaching an estimated 371,282 people across six regions
- Publication of an article published in the national newspaper Poradnytsia, reaching 29,800 readers

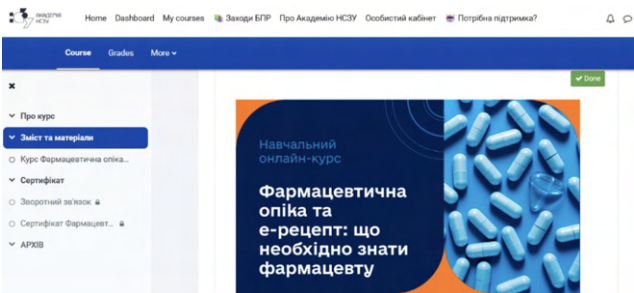
In total, the campaign reached more than 407,000 people, raising awareness of mobile pharmacy services and their role in expanding access to essential medicines — including those provided under the AMP — for residents of remote and underserved communities.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY ON REIMBURSEMENT AND ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS THROUGH NHSU ACADEMY

Since its launch in 2017, SAFEMed has been a key partner of the MOH and the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) in deploying the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP). To support continued improvement, SAFEMed developed content and provided technical support for a new online training course for pharmacists, in collaboration with the National Pharmacy University and the eHealth State Enterprise.

Hosted on the NHSU Academy platform, the training course consists of 2 parts:

- Module 1: Pharmaceutical care in the dispensing the most common prescription medicines
- Module 2: Dispensing medicines using electronic prescriptions



Screenshot from the course on NHSU Academy platform - start page.
Credit: SAFEMed.

Each topic includes theoretical content, interactive exercises, and self-assessment quizzes. Since launching on June 3rd, over 200 participants have completed the course and received certificates of completion, earning **10 credits** toward their continuing professional development—a requirement for Ukrainian healthcare and pharmaceutical professionals.

This high uptake demonstrates strong demand for accessible training resources and underscores the importance of continued investment in capacity building to support the AMP and other national health reforms.

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