



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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STATE EXPERT CENTER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ECTD IMPLEMENTATION



SEC Director Mykhailo Babenko receives an award from SAFEMed's COP Rebecca Kohler

On November 25, the State Expert Center (SEC) of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine received a national industry award at the annual Panacea 2025 ceremony for the successful implementation of the electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD). The introduction of eCTD marks a major milestone in the digitalization and modernization of Ukraine’s regulatory system for medicinal products. By transitioning to eCTD, Ukraine has aligned more closely with international regulatory standards and enabled faster processing of registration dossiers, stronger quality control across the full product lifecycle, and improved transparency and predictability for manufacturers. This reform also reduces administrative burden, minimizes the risk of human error, and helps accelerate patient access to safe and effective medicines—an especially important achievement during wartime, when system resilience matters more than ever.

Panacea is widely recognized as one of the most prestigious professional awards in the Ukrainian pharmaceutical sector, honoring institutions and initiatives that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and impact. This recognition underscores the scale and significance of SEC’s achievement and positions eCTD implementation as one of the most influential regulatory reforms of the year.

The award was presented to SEC Director Mykhailo Babenko by Rebecca Kohler, SAFEMed's Chief of Party, reflecting the strong partnership and international technical support that contributed to this successful transformation.

MPU HOLDS STRATEGIC SESSION WITH ITS SUPERVISORY BOARD

In late 2024, Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) reached an important institutional milestone with the establishment of an independent Supervisory Board. With the Board now in place, and in response to the evolving needs of the health sector, MPU held a Strategic Session on November 13 at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) to refine the organization’s strategic vision and align priorities for 2026.

Supported by SAFEMed, the one-day session brought together 35 participants and was facilitated by business coach and certified management consultant Olena Yuzkova, who also led the development of MPU’s 2024–2026 strategy. Yuzkova is continuing to guide MPU's alignment process as the organization transitions into a full-cycle medical supply agency.



MPU strategic session participants

MPU General Manager Oleg Klots, opened the session with a roadmap for implementing MPU’s strategy. The highly interactive format included group work with MPU’s top management and department heads to cascade strategic goals across functional areas and define priority projects and tasks.

Within the framework of the defined strategic goals—(1) Transformation into a Medical Supply Agency, (2) Modernization of warehouse facilities, (3) Ensuring supply for recovery and reconstruction projects, and (4) Advancing corporate governance reforms— the team refined the specific steps, KPIs, and timelines that will guide implementation in 2026. The session strengthened institutional alignment with the MOH and sharpened MPU’s organizational focus on uninterrupted access to free, high-quality treatment for patients nationwide.

CPH AND SAFEMED RELEASE NEW VIDEO SERIES ON HIV, TB, AND HEPATITIS TESTING AND TREATMENT



One of the shots from the HIV testing video

Ukraine took part in European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week from November 17-23; a continent-wide initiative aimed at raising awareness of early testing and timely treatment. As part of the communication campaign, the Center for Public Health (CPH) of the MOH published a series of videos developed with support from SAFEMed.

The videos cover essential information: what people need to know about viral hepatitis, when and how to get tested for HIV, how prevention works, and what free treatment services are available in Ukraine. Each video is grounded in real patient stories, people who confronted fear and uncertainty, decided to get tested, accessed treatment, and reclaimed their health. CPH experts featured in the videos explain where and how Ukrainians can receive free diagnostic, prevention, and treatment services.

The three videos—on HIV testing, HIV prevention, and hepatitis—were published on CPH’s Facebook page during Testing Week. Regional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ukrainian NGOs, and healthcare facilities across 12 regions also shared the videos, displaying them in patient waiting areas to extend reach.

- HIV testing: [\[link\]](#)
- HIV prevention: [\[link\]](#)
- Hepatitis: [\[link\]](#)

Additional content: On November 12 CPH published a video on tuberculosis that dispels common myths and promotes early detection and timely treatment ([link](#)). The strong audience engagement confirmed that short, real-life storytelling videos are an effective format for raising awareness and motivating timely testing and treatment.

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 U.S. Government, 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.

MPU AND STATE SERVICE ON MEDICINES AND DRUGS CONTROL HOST NATIONWIDE WEBINAR ON PROPER STORAGE AND HANDLING OF MEDICINES

On November 12, 2025, MPU and the State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control (SMDC), with support from SAFEMed, held a nationwide webinar for healthcare facilities focused on compliance with professional requirements for medicine storage and handling. These processes are essential to ensuring the quality and safety of patient care.

The webinar combined MPU’s practical experience as the national procurer with SMDC’s regulatory expertise. MPU specialists explained how the organization’s quality management system operates, covering incoming control procedures, temperature compliance, warehouse zoning, and the role of the responsible person. Participants saw how these components underpin good storage and distribution practices and help safeguard medicine quality at every stage.



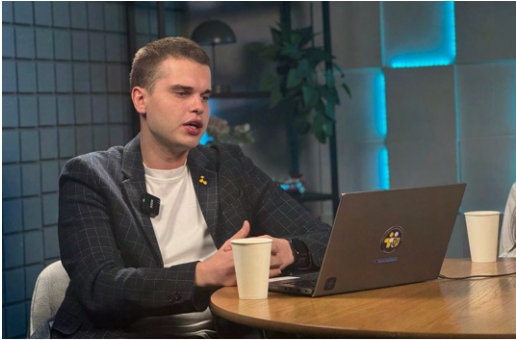
The MPU and SMDC team during the webinar

SMDC experts addressed regulatory oversight and the most frequent violations identified during inspections, including superficial incoming control, lack of proper labeling, temperature breaches, and absence of quarantine zones. They also clarified key regulatory requirements that all healthcare facilities must follow.

More than 1,400 specialists from across Ukraine joined via Zoom, [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#) channels, demonstrating the strong demand for clear, practical guidance on good storage and distribution practices. A final Q&A session allowed participants to raise real-life challenges such as documenting incoming control, responding to temperature excursions, and isolating suspect products.

Overall, the webinar was an important step toward strengthening nationwide capacity to meet high-quality standards for medicine management.

MPU TRAINING WEBINAR: HOW TO USE MEDDATA AND ESTOCK IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



Yurii Podoshva, Head of the MPU's Stock Management Department during webinar

On November 7, MPU, with support from SAFEMed, held an online webinar for healthcare workers on effectively using the MedData and eStock information systems. Titled “Step-by-Step: Reporting Remaining Stock and Demand Collection–Common Mistakes and Practical Tips,” the session aimed to help users improve the quality of medicine stock reporting and needs forecasting.

The webinar was divided into two sessions:

- Reporting Remaining Stock in MedData: Common mistakes and practical tips
- Demand Collection: Regulatory requirements, submission, and verification

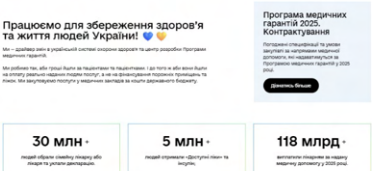
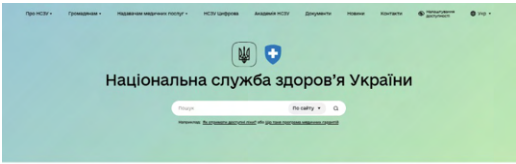
Each session included demonstrations, presentations, and open Q&A. MPU representatives provided step-by-step problem-solving guidance; channels for technical support, feedback, and complaints; and updated instructional materials.

Up to 360 participants joined via Zoom, [YouTube](#), and Facebook Live. All received key resources including technical instructions and a branded 2026 reporting calendar.

NHSU LAUNCHES UPDATED PUBLIC WEBSITE: FASTER, MORE USER-FRIENDLY, AND MORE TRANSPARENT

The National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) has launched its updated public website, an important milestone in expanding transparency and access to healthcare information nationwide. Supported by SAFEMed, the upgraded platform provides citizens with faster, clearer access to information on healthcare facilities, doctors, services, and pharmacies.

Released initially in pilot mode on September 25, the website underwent targeted improvements based on user feedback. SAFEMed supported enhancements to the site’s structure, stability, design, and search functionality. After these improvements were implemented, the website became fully operational in November.



New unified search bar

Key improvements include:

- Modernized universal search bar for finding facilities, doctors, services, and pharmacies
- Search results appearing up to 60% faster
- More intuitive navigation in the Documents and Announcements sections
- Improved mobile experience through adaptive design
- Simplified content management for NHSU team through automated tab generation

These upgrades have reduced the number of calls to the NHSU contact center and strengthened public trust in the platform. The result is a more stable, accessible, and user-focused digital resource that supports Ukraine’s ongoing digital transformation and reinforces transparent access to health information.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST

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