



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

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MONITORING VISIT TO IVANO-FRANKIVSK: ENSURING CONTINUITY OF HIV TREATMENT



Monitoring visit delegation touring the Center's
warehouse
Credit: SAFEMed

On January 29, 2026, SAFEMed accompanied U.S. Government representatives on a monitoring visit to the Center for Infectious Diseases of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council to review implementation of U.S. Government-supported activities and regional coordination of HIV services.

Following institutional reorganization in 2024, the Center now serves as a regional hub for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis services, overseeing monitoring, warehousing, and distribution of essential medicines across the region. As of January 1, 2026, 1,245 patients in the region were receiving antiretroviral therapy. The Center also reported increased HIV testing using rapid test kits, rising from 29,370 tests in 2024 to 31,961 in 2025, and described mechanisms supporting continuity of treatment for patients who relocate abroad.

SAFEMed supported the Center through a regional training on use of a recently finalized Antiretroviral Therapy (ARV) Quantification Tool in late 2025, strengthening forecasting and stock management practices. Ivano-Frankivsk also benefited from last-mile deliveries of antiretroviral medicines prior to the war and subsequently identified alternative modalities to ensure HIV and TB commodities reached patients.

During the visit, discussions focused on ARV availability, forecasting practices, stock management, and regional HIV planning. The delegation also toured warehouse and storage facilities to observe medicine storage conditions and routine inventory procedures.

NEW RESOURCE ON PHARMACEUTICAL REGULATORY REFORMS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Ukraine continues preparations to launch a new pharmaceutical regulatory framework aligned with international standards, including the establishment of a modern medicines regulatory authority. This month, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine has launched a dedicated information landing page to explain reform objectives, scope, timeline, and practical implications for stakeholders and the general public.

The platform presents the mission and vision of the future regulatory body, outlines key regulatory areas and reform milestones, and provides regular updates, FAQs, and relevant regulatory documents. It also highlights international cooperation, including the recently launched European Commission Twinning Initiative, and shares information on team development and upcoming recruitment opportunities. The landing page serves as a single, user-friendly source for businesses, health professionals, and citizens.

The resource was developed with technical support from SAFEMed as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen transparency and communication around pharmaceutical sector reforms and to support Ukraine's transition toward globally recognized regulatory practices.

The landing page is publicly available at <https://uma.gov.ua/en>.



Online landing page screenshot

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 the U.S. Government, the MSH-led project 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 healthcare system in the wake of the war.

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH FORUM 2025: UKRAINE’S EXPERIENCE FEATURED ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



SAFEMed was represented virtually at the 2025 Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF)—the world’s leading event on digital health innovation—held December 3-5 in Nairobi, Kenya. Denys Ponomarenko, Senior Digital Health Advisor, and Tetiana Klymenko, Senior Manager for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning, presented Ukraine’s experience in building resilient digital health systems during crisis.

During the session “Building a Rapid Digital Response Framework: From COVID-19 to Humanitarian Aid Tracking in Ukraine,” the team showcased how Ukraine’s MedData digital architecture, initially developed to monitor 2,500 hospitals during COVID-19, was rapidly repurposed to support the wartime humanitarian response. The system enabled end-to-end tracking of over \$500 million in humanitarian medical aid from the start of the war through the end of 2023, ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely delivery of life-saving supplies.

SAFEMed’s presentation generated strong interest from international partners and donors, highlighting Ukraine’s transition from a recipient of global expertise to a contributor of scalable digital solutions. The experience demonstrated how Ukraine’s digital health infrastructure can serve as a practical model for other countries seeking resilient, data-driven approaches to health system strengthening in crisis settings.

SAFEMED PUBLISHES BLUEPRINT FOR ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT HTA AGENCY IN UKRAINE

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) informs healthcare decision-making by evaluating the value and effectiveness of medicines and other health technologies to support equitable, efficient, and high-quality health systems. HTA has been a core component of Ukraine’s health system since its introduction into legislation in 2017, and became mandatory for publicly-funded medicines in 2020.

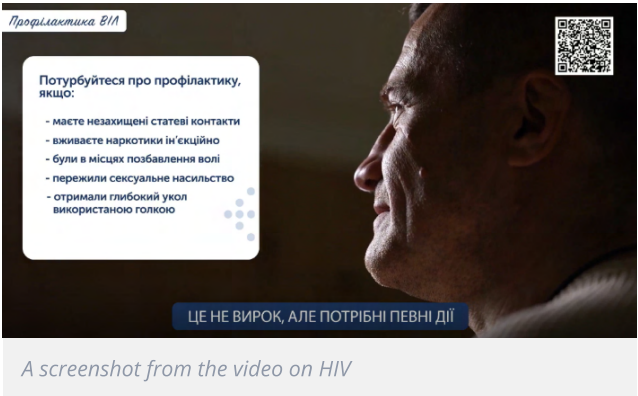
Ukraine is now preparing to establish an independent HTA agency through the restructuring of the State Expert Center, aligned with international best practices. The future agency is expected to operate with clear mandates, operational independence, and a strong legal foundation, alongside the forthcoming regulatory body that will oversee market authorization for medicines starting in 2027.

To formally document and disseminate Ukraine’s experience, SAFEMed, working with international experts, published an open-access, peer-reviewed [article on a conceptual framework for HTA agency creation](#) in the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. The article presents a conceptual framework for HTA agency creation and underscores the importance of institutionalizing evidence-based decision-making, value-based pricing, and improved resource allocation and access to effective health technologies.



The publication outlines a proposed institutional model combining core technical functions—such as appraisal, development of national clinical guidelines, and pricing—with strong support functions, including data analytics, communications, and legal affairs. It also presents options for sustainable financing and a phased implementation roadmap that balances continuity of existing HTA activities with the transition to an autonomous institution. This work reflects SAFEMed’s ongoing contribution to strengthening evidence-informed health policy in Ukraine and supports the development of a more transparent, resilient, and sustainable health system.

VIDEO SERIES ON HIV, TB, AND VIRAL HEPATITIS: ON THE PATH TOWARD NATIONAL BROADCAST



In partnership with the Center for Public Health (CPH), SAFEMed developed a five-video awareness series focused on HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis. The videos combine real-life stories with expert guidance to promote clear, accessible communication on prevention, testing, and treatment, helping normalize timely care-seeking behavior.

The series was initially shared through CPH and partner social media channels during targeted campaigns including European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week (November) and World AIDS Day (December). Building on this outreach, SAFEMed adapted the videos for nationwide dissemination, producing 30-second and 45-second versions to meet platform-specific requirements.

The 30-second videos will be placed in high-traffic public settings, including Ukrzaliznytsia and the Kyiv Metropolitan, while the 45-second versions are planned for broadcast through the National Tele-marathon. All adapted videos are now ready for placement and broadcast. Once approved as social advertising, the series will support coordinated, large-scale national communication on HIV, TB, and hepatitis prevention, care, and treatment in the coming months.

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