



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2026



SAFEMED CONTINUES PROMOTING HB-HTA IMPLEMENTATION



As Ukraine advances health system reforms and health facilities gain greater autonomy, the need for transparent, evidence-based decision-making on medical technologies and procurement is becoming increasingly important. Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment (HB-HTA) offers hospitals a practical tool to guide procurement and resource allocation decisions using evidence and clear criteria. SAFEMed, funded by the U.S. Government, has supported the development and introduction of HB-HTA in Ukraine through technical assistance, capacity building, and pilot implementation at the Amosov Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery.

To document this experience, SAFEMed and international experts published the article "Bridging the Gap Between Evidence and Practice: Introducing Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment in Ukraine" in the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. The

publication describes how HB-HTA models were adapted to the Ukrainian health system between 2021–2025 and shares lessons learned from the pilot implementation.

The article highlights the potential of HB-HTA to support smarter hospital procurement decisions, more efficient use of public resources, and improved transparency in healthcare management. It also underscores the importance of incorporating HB-HTA into national legislation and developing national methodological guidelines to enable broader adoption across healthcare facilities.

SAFEMed continues to support the development of evidence-based decision-making tools that strengthen healthcare governance, improve resource allocation, and expand patient access to effective health technologies.

[Read the article.](#)

SAFEMED ADVANCES DIALOGUE ON ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE MEDICINES DURING RARE DISEASE DAY EVENT

On February 27, SAFEMed participated in a Rare Disease Day panel discussion in Kyiv organized by the NGO Orphan Diseases of Ukraine. The event brought together representatives of Ukrainian authorities, international partners, industry experts, patient organizations, and patients living with rare diseases to discuss ways to improve access to innovative and high-cost medicines.

During the panel, Rebecca Kohler, SAFEMed Chief of Party, presented key developments in Ukraine's implementation of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Managed Entry Agreements (MEAs). In 2025 alone, the State Expert Center issued 35 HTA recommendations, including 22 full HTA reports and 13 rapid assessments, doubling the number produced the previous year. At the same time, procurement of medicines through MEAs reached UAH 2.4 billion, according to Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU).

Participants highlighted the growing role of HTA and MEAs as important policy tools to expand patient access to innovative therapies while ensuring transparent and efficient use of public resources. Discussions also explored future developments, including regional MEAs that could allow healthcare facilities to pool demand for medicines and outcome-based agreements linking payment to clinical results.

Patient representatives shared firsthand experiences of challenges in accessing treatment, emphasizing the importance of patient-centered approaches in policy development. SAFEMed continues to support the development of transparent, evidence-based policies that improve access to safe and effective medicines and strengthen Ukraine's healthcare system.

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.



Panelists and stakeholders engage in a discussion on improving access to innovative medicines during the Rare Disease Day event in Kyiv.

MPU HOSTS PARTNER MEETING TO SHARE RESULTS AND 2026 PRIORITIES



Participants of the MPU partner meeting visit hospital departments at Okhmatdyt to observe medical equipment procured through centralized procurement system.

On February 25, 2026, the State Enterprise Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) hosted a partners' meeting at Okhmatdyt National Children's Hospital. The event brought together international partners, donors, and stakeholders to review the organization's achievements in 2025 and discuss priorities for the year ahead. SAFEMed participated in the meeting, reaffirming its support for strengthening pharmaceutical procurement and supply systems in Ukraine.

The meeting began with a tour of the hospital, where participants visited several departments and viewed high-cost medical equipment procured through MPU's centralized system, including an MRI scanner. The visit demonstrated how procurement reforms and international partnerships translate into tangible improvements in patient care.

MPU leadership presented key results from 2025, including management of a record-sized procurement budget for medicines, medical devices,

and equipment supplied to healthcare facilities nationwide. Through competitive procurement processes, the agency achieved approximately **UAH 1.77 billion in savings**, enabling the purchase of additional critical medical supplies.

Participants also highlighted progress in strengthening Ukraine's medical supply system through improved procurement practices, digital supply chain solutions, and stronger governance and transparency mechanisms. Discussions focused on priorities for 2026, including institutional capacity strengthening, procurement innovation, and continued improvements in governance and compliance aligned with international standards.

The meeting provided an important platform for dialogue among partners supporting Ukraine's health sector. SAFEMed continues to support the Ministry of Health and MPU in strengthening transparent, efficient, and sustainable procurement systems that ensure reliable access to essential medicines and medical technologies.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAUNCHES REORGANIZATION OF MPU

On February 26, 2026, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine issued Order No. 247, initiating the reorganization of MPU as part of broader corporate governance reforms of state-owned enterprises.

Under the order, MPU will reorganize into a State Non-Commercial Association, aligning the organization with legislative changes adopted in 2025. The transition aims to strengthen MPU's institutional sustainability, governance structure, and operational flexibility while aligning management practices with modern public sector standards.

The reorganization will involve a series of legal and organizational steps, including the development of a comprehensive transition roadmap and updates to governance and operational frameworks to ensure the continued transparent and efficient procurement of medicines and medical devices.

SAFEMed will support MPU during this process by engaging legal experts to develop a detailed roadmap outlining the legal steps, timelines, and organizational measures required to complete the transition in line with the Ministry's Order.

This reform represents an important milestone for strengthening Ukraine's medical procurement system and improving the delivery of essential medicines and medical technologies to patients nationwide.

Goals for 2026

Ensuring the supply of medical goods within Ukraine's Recovery projects

- Conducting procurements and distribution within Ukraine's Recovery initiatives, ensuring uninterrupted supply.
- Implementation of the Nuclear Medicine Centers development project



Implementation of corporate governance projects as a key element of MPU's Institutional resilience

- Transformation MPU's organizational and legal form
- Further institutional strengthening through the Supervisory Board governance and decision-making
- Strategy development for 2027-2029
- Strengthening administration of the Prozorro Market e-Catalog and ensuring system adaptation to expanded procurement categories

MPU leadership presents procurement results and priorities for 2026 during a partner coordination meeting.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT DIGEST

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