



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

MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

MARCH 2026



UKRAINE EXPANDS AFFORDABLE MEDICINES PROGRAM TO REACH MORE PATIENTS



Ukraine's Affordable Medicines Program expands access to essential treatment for patients across the country

Ukraine has **expanded** the Affordable Medicines Program (AMP), adding 37 new medicines and increasing access to treatment nationwide. Approved by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and effective March 31, 2026, the program now includes 748 medicines and medical devices, with 279 of these provided free of charge to patients.

The expansion strengthens coverage across priority areas, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and respiratory conditions, giving providers greater flexibility and helping ensure continuity of care.

The program is also scaling financially. In 2026, its budget increased by UAH 1.8 billion (approximately USD 41 million), reaching a total of UAH 8.7 billion (USD 199 million). This expanded investment is already translating into access: more than 1.5 million patients have used the program this year, with over 3.5 million prescriptions reimbursed.

The updated list also includes new glucose test strips from ACON Laboratories, Inc., improving access to essential tools for diabetes monitoring and daily disease management — an example of how global partnerships, including with U.S.-based manufacturers, are supporting patient care in Ukraine.

By expanding both coverage and financing, the AMP continues to reduce out-of-pocket costs and improve equitable access to essential treatment. Further discussions on the program's implementation and expansion will take place during a SAFEMed-supported regional meeting in Khmelnytskyi in April 2026.

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENT PROCUREMENT TO SAVE LIVES IN UKRAINE: SAFEMED SUPPORTS MPU'S ANNUAL SUPPLIER FORUM

The U.S. Government-funded SAFEMed Activity supported the annual Supplier Forum "Rules of the Game 2026," held on March 12 in Kyiv and organized by the State Enterprise Medical Procurement of Ukraine (MPU) — the national agency responsible for procuring medicines and medical products. The hybrid event convened over 300 participants, including suppliers, healthcare providers, government officials, and patient organizations, reinforcing the importance of coordinated action across the pharmaceutical system. Among the speakers were Mykhailo Radutskyi, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Health, Rebecca Kohler, Chief of Party of the SAFEMed Activity, and Oleg Klots, MPU's General Manager.

MPU leadership presented its 2026 procurement strategy, outlining priorities, planned volumes, and operational improvements, with a focus on more efficient and predictable procurement processes.

A panel discussion highlighted how combining state and regional budgets can expand access to innovative medicines, alongside the benefits of linking reimbursement to treatment outcomes. Participants also underscored key challenges, including limited financial capacity, uneven regional readiness, and the need for stronger coordination mechanisms, which SAFEMed will continue to support throughout the year.

In her **opening remarks**, Kohler emphasized a central principle: "Transparent and accountable procurement systems save lives and help governments use resources more efficiently. Continued investment in medicines demonstrates strong support for Ukraine and its people, even in times of war."

By strengthening dialogue between government, suppliers, and partners — and promoting more predictable procurement practices — SAFEMed contributes to strengthening Ukraine's pharmaceutical system and improving access to medicines.



Rebecca Kohler, SAFEMed Chief of Party, delivers opening remarks at the MPU Supplier Forum "Rules of the Game 2026," highlighting the importance of transparent procurement

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.

UKRAINE MOVES TOWARD PREDICTABLE AND RELIABLE MEDICINE SUPPLY



Effective supply management helps ensure continuous availability of medicines across Ukraine

Recent regulatory **updates** approved by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (Order No. 327, March 16, 2026) introduce new requirements for how medicines and medical devices are planned, procured, and monitored.

Procurement decisions will now be based on real-time data, including national demand, stock levels, expected deliveries, and consumption patterns, replacing fragmented estimates.

The reforms also introduce minimum stock levels to ensure continuity without overstocking. In addition, the state enterprise Medical Procurement of Ukraine will conduct quarterly monitoring of supply across all regions and healthcare facilities.

Procurement contracts will now include clear delivery schedules and allow for longer-term commitments. This enables suppliers to better plan production and ensure timely delivery of medicines.

Ukraine is also expanding its planning horizon. The agency can now plan multi-year procurements (up to three years). Further, it will expand procurement in areas such as oncology, transplantation, and other priority therapeutic fields.

These changes are supported by digital tools such as MedData and eStock, developed with the support of SAFEMed, enabling real-time monitoring and decision-making.

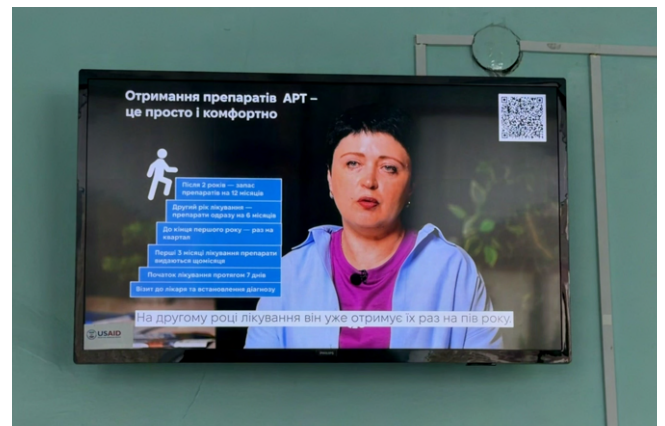
By strengthening planning, monitoring, and contracting mechanisms, Ukraine is improving the reliability of medicine supply and ensuring patients have more consistent access to treatment.

EXPANDING THE REACH OF HIV, TB, AND HEPATITIS AWARENESS

Across Ukraine, patients in healthcare facilities are now encountering short, evidence-based videos about HIV, tuberculosis, and viral hepatitis — integrating health communication into routine care. Developed by SAFEMed in partnership with the Center for Public Health, these materials provide practical guidance on prevention, testing, and treatment.

Recognized as social advertising, they can now be disseminated broadly across national media platforms. Through collaboration with the U.S. Government-funded REACH 95 Activity, the videos are also being displayed on TV screens in healthcare facility waiting areas — bringing reliable health information directly into patient touchpoints.

As of March 2026, the videos are being broadcast in 175 healthcare facilities across multiple regions of Ukraine. Based on patient visit data, they are estimated to have reached an estimated 7 million patient visits within four months. This approach demonstrates how communication, when embedded within existing systems, can become a scalable and high-impact public health tool — reinforcing understanding, supporting informed decision-making, and increasing uptake of essential services.



Awareness video on HIV, TB, and hepatitis displayed in a healthcare facility waiting area. Credit: REACH-95 Activity

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