

# UKRAINE: Pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies

Ministry of Health of Ukraine ([taras.lyaskovsky@gmail.com](mailto:taras.lyaskovsky@gmail.com)),

National Health Service of Ukraine ([natalia.hnatiuk@nszu.gov.ua](mailto:natalia.hnatiuk@nszu.gov.ua)), SE "State Expert Centre of MOH" ([pinyazhko@dec.gov.ua](mailto:pinyazhko@dec.gov.ua))

Ukraine country perspective: population 38 mln people (2022), GDP per capita 4 534 USD, health expenditure 7,62% of GDP (269 USD per capita) (World bank data), tax funded health care system

## Pricing of medicines

**Key competent authorities for pricing of medicines in Ukraine:** Ministry of Health (decisions about pharmaceutical policies); National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) – management of public purchasing and reimbursement funds, contracting of GPs and pharmacies, reporting;

SE "State Expert Centre" (HTA, calculations for ERP, IRP); SE "Medical procurement of Ukraine" (procurement of medical products).

- The pricing of medicines is regulated in public sector at ex factory level.
- Pricing procedures: external reference pricing (ERP), internal reference pricing (IRP), tendering, value based pricing (HTA), negotiations (managed entry agreements), central procurement.
- **ERP for outpatient sector:** reference countries POL, LAT, SLO, HUN, CZE are used for the comparison and decisions of the ex factory/wholesale prices for the reimbursed medicines in the reimbursement program "Affordable medicines" (AMP)
- Regulation of the wholesale and retail prices (defined maximal prices) for AMP
- Regressive margins (price-dependent) for medicines included on the National list of essential medicines (NEML)
- VAT 7%
- **ERP for inpatient sector:** reference countries POL, LAT, SLO, HUN, CZE are used for the comparison and decision of the exfactory prices for the medicines included on the NEML eligible for public procurement
- From April 2020 the MoH introduced packages of guaranteed medical services. The system is similar to DRG in Germany, where the treatment of each disease in the inpatient sector is covered from public funds (NHSU) and includes the medication. Additionally, hospitals may purchase medicines, but only from the NEML or other approved lists for special programmes.

## Coverage/ reimbursement

**Decision making institutions for coverage /reimbursement of medicines in Ukraine:** Ministry of Health, NHSU. The coverage of medicines from the public payer increased from 11% in 2013 to 34% in 2023. Almost 70% of total need in NEML medicines is currently covered by public funds, compared to 40% in 2020. There are 2 main regulatory lists for medicines: NEML (adopted based on WHO EML in 2017) and medicines for centralized procurement programs. Centralized procurement for the 30 therapeutic areas is made by the national procurement agency SE "Medical procurement of Ukraine" and by the international organizations according to the need calculated by the Ministry of Health.

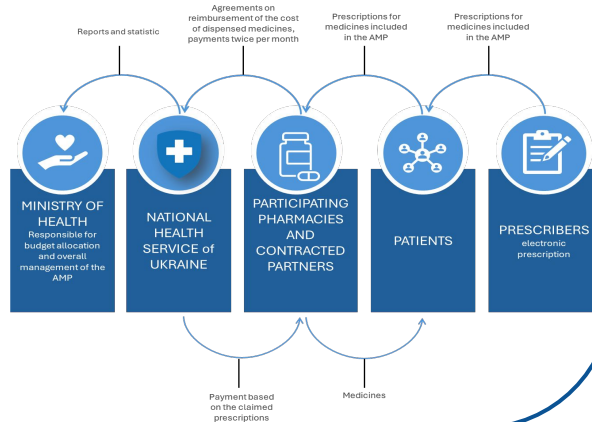
State Reimbursement Program "Affordable medicines" (AMP) is based on NEML:

- Started in 2017 with 23 INN for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes type 2 and bronchial asthma (157 medicines).
- Related processes flow through the electronic health care system. An e-prescription is valid in any pharmacy that has a contract with NHSU.
- In 2021 insulins reimbursement was included in the AMP.
- **In 2024 AMP reimbursement list covers:**

20 INN (229 products) for the treatment of cardiovascular, 3 INN (57 products) diabetes type 2 and 1 INN (4 products) of diabetes insipidus, 7 INN (32 products) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), 10 INN (43 products) of insulin, 10 INN (65 products) of mental health and epilepsy, 2 INN (7 products) of Parkinson's disease, 6 INN (21 products) of post-transplantation period, 2 INN (6 products) of pain management during palliative care, 1 medical devices (41 products) test strips for determining glucose levels about 1/3 of them are available for free, others with co-payment

According to the report of NHSU for 2023:

About 50% pharmacy had contract 1 397 with NHSU for the reimbursement ( 13 625 divisions), about 12,3 million electronic prescriptions (55,8 million from the start of the program) were reimbursed of 3,9 billion UAH/ 90 million EUR (9,5 billion UAH/222 million EUR from the start of the program), over 4,5 million patients profited from the program



## HTA

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) became mandatory in Ukraine in 2020 for any new medicine covered by public funds according to the Decree of Cabinet of Ministers №1300 dated 23.12.2020. The HTA Department of the State Enterprise "State Expert Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine" was established in January 2019 for the development of recommendations and informing decisions for the MoH regarding the financing of health technologies in the healthcare system, inclusion/exclusion from regulatory lists on the basis of HTA expertise regarding efficacy, safety, cost effectiveness, organizational issues for citizens in connection with the application of technology. The final decision is made based on the HTA recommendations by MoH. Based on HTA expertise over 100 conclusions with recommendations were published. Among 100 publicly available HTA conclusions 37% contain recommendations to consider a MEA. The first 10 MEAs were concluded at the end of 2022.