



EUROPE

THE COUNTRY PHARMACY PROFILE SERIES



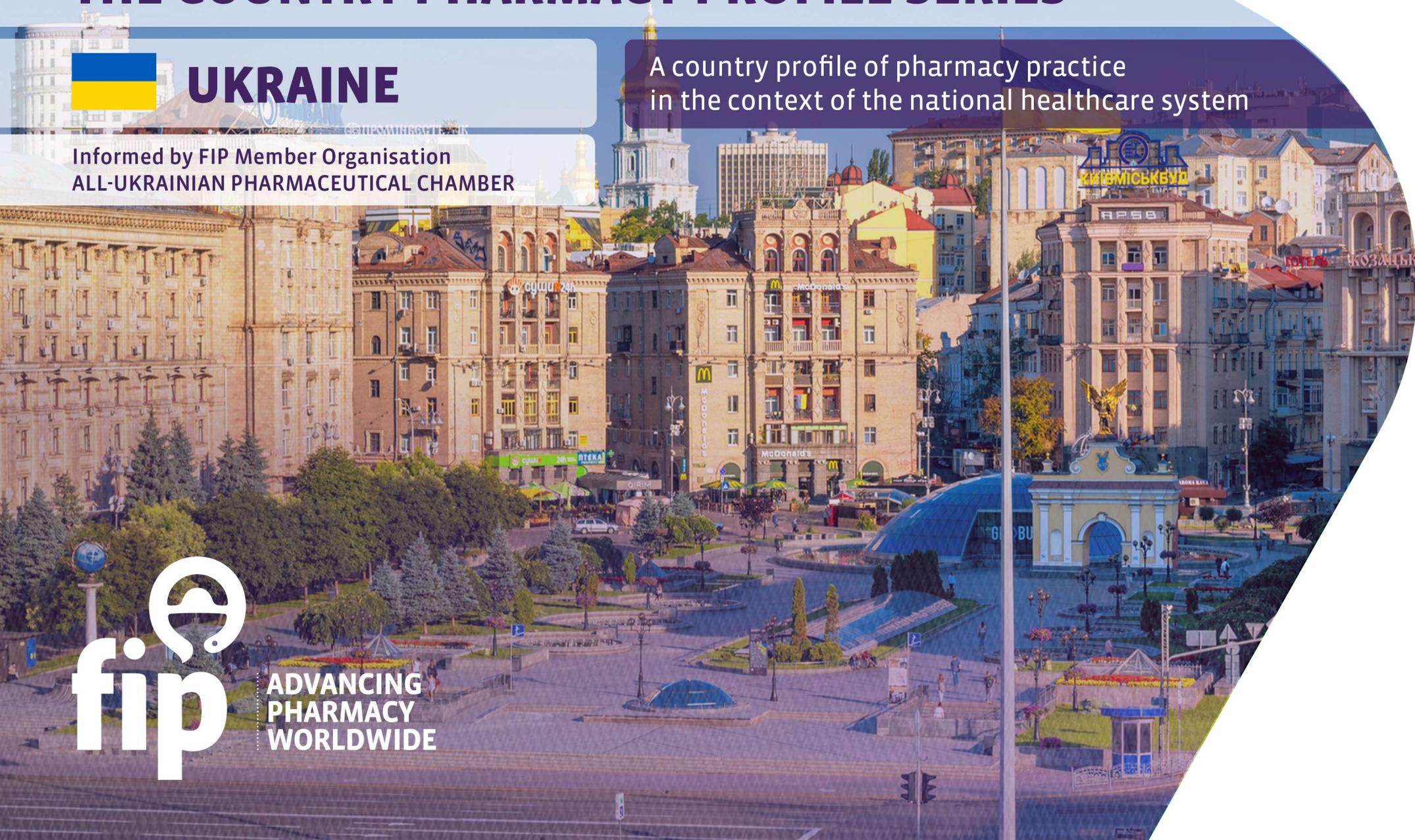
UKRAINE

A country profile of pharmacy practice
in the context of the national healthcare system

Informed by FIP Member Organisation
ALL-UKRAINIAN PHARMACEUTICAL CHAMBER



ADVANCING
PHARMACY
WORLDWIDE



1. OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

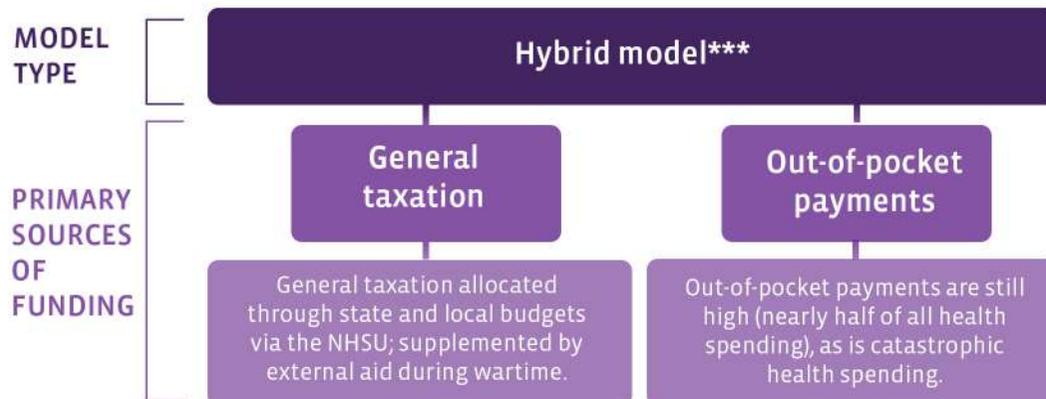
Ukraine operates a mixed healthcare system, combining a predominantly public sector with a growing private sector. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine serves as the central governing body responsible for national healthcare policy, regulation, and oversight. Healthcare delivery is decentralised, with substantial responsibility delegated to regional and local authorities (oblasts and municipalities).¹

General taxation is the primary source of healthcare financing*. The National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), established in 2018, acts as the single national purchaser of healthcare services, contracting directly with public and private healthcare providers.^{1,3} At the same time, it founded two distinct benefit packages: one for outpatient medication, known as the “Affordable Medicines Programme (AMP),” and another for health services, initially focused on primary care but later expanded to include specialist and emergency services, known as the “Medical Guarantees (PMG).” Out-of-pocket payments remain substantial, particularly for medications, followed by inpatient care, dental care, and diagnostic tests.¹ Chronic underfunding and persistent inefficiencies within the public system continue to undermine the quality and accessibility of care, further straining limited resources.¹

Pharmacists represent an essential component of Ukraine’s healthcare workforce. As with other countries, the overall health workforce is facing significant shortages and an uneven distribution across regions, particularly in rural areas**. In addition, the ageing workforce poses a growing concern, as many healthcare professionals are approaching retirement age, threatening future service capacity unless efforts are made to attract and retain younger professionals.^{1,2} Meanwhile, a growing crisis in mental health, driven by psychological trauma and war-related disruptions, has emerged as one of the more pressing public health challenges facing the country.⁴

Healthcare financing model¹

Ukraine’s current healthcare financing model is hybrid:



*Since the start of the 2022 wartime period, a significant element of public healthcare expenditure is funded through foreign aid

**These challenges have been further intensified by wartime migration and the destruction of health infrastructure.

*** The hybrid healthcare financing model is described as a system that combines multiple funding sources, such as public funds, private investment, donor contributions, and out-of-pocket payments, to finance healthcare infrastructure and services. Available at: <http://bit.ly/4mFQNLz>

2. SERVICES PROVIDED BY PHARMACISTS IN THE COUNTRY

Types of services provided in community and hospital pharmacies

This section outlines the range of professional services provided by pharmacists in Ukraine across community and hospital settings.

Services provided by community pharmacies beyond dispensing*		
Therapeutic substitution (changing dose, formulation, etc)		Limited
Adjustment of prescribed treatments		✗
Complementary prescribing		✗
Independent prescribing		✗
Prescribing in an emergency		✗
Providing medicines and services in care homes (nursing homes)		✗
Services to hospital and other facilities without a pharmacy		✗
Home deliveries	offered by non-pharmaceutical entities	✗
Home care and medication reviews/medicines use reviews		✗
Dispensing emergency contraceptive		✗
Applying first aid and arranging follow-up care	limited to first aid	✓
HIV testing		✗
Counselling on HIV self-test products		✗
COVID-19 testing		✗
Dispensing prescription renewals for patients with long term conditions authorised with the original prescription		✗

*Data in this table were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

Services and activities provided by hospital pharmacies*

Validation of prescriptions	✓
Preparing non-sterile medicines	✓
Preparing sterile medicines	✓
Preparing cytotoxic medicines	✓
Preparing nutrition mixtures	✗
Dispensing to outpatients	✓
Pharmacy and therapeutics committees	✓
Multidisciplinary therapeutic decision making	✗
Reporting non-quality medicines	✓
Managing medication history	✓
Pharmacogenomics testing	✗
Medicines reconciliation	✓
Monitoring medicines use	✓
Pharmacokinetic monitoring	✓
Clinical trials	✗
Managing medicines-related waste	✓
Antibiotic stewardship	✓
Support to emergency departments	✓

*Data in this table were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

Extended scope of practice*

Is pharmacy-based vaccination available in the country?	Yes, but the pharmacies give vaccinations free of charge	
Are pharmacists authorised to administer vaccines in pharmacies?	Yes, after special training	
Are pharmacists authorised to prescribe vaccines in pharmacies?	No	
Do pharmacists receive vaccination training ?	Yes, the training programme has been confirmed and approved by the Ministry of Health	
At what career stage(s) do pharmacists receive vaccination training?	Pharmacists receive vaccination training when the pharmacy they work at becomes approved to provide vaccination services. At that point, all pharmacists at that location complete the required vaccination training.	
Is the training mandatory ?	Yes	

*Data were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

3. PHARMACY HUMAN RESOURCES: EDUCATION AND ENTRY INTO PRACTICE

Education and training of the pharmacy workforce (year 2025)*

30 accredited pharmacy schools/faculties
(it is constantly changing)

YES Continuing professional development (CPD) **IS** mandatory for pharmacists' licence renewal

5 years minimum of full-time undergraduate education

1 year minimum of experiential/practical training for registration

YES The renewal of pharmacist licensing or registration **IS** based on gaining CPD 'credits' or 'points' or similar credentials

YES CPD (portfolio) **IS** linked with an annual portfolio-type submission (for example, reflective diary entries, or reflective cases)

*Data were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

4. COUNTRY'S HEALTHCARE ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

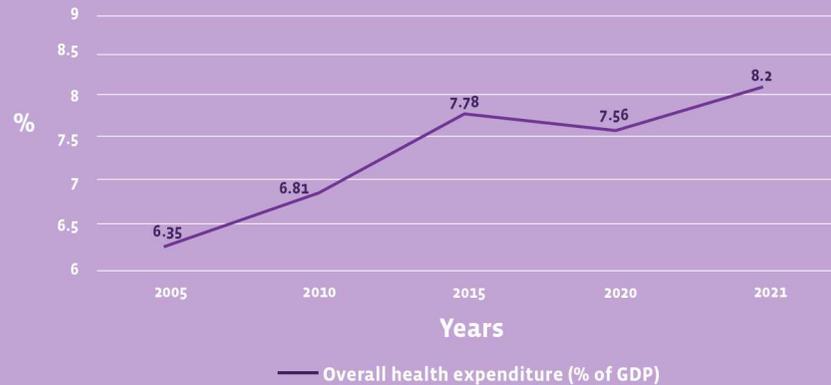
This section provides a macro-level overview of Ukraine's health financing indicators and outcomes, including GDP spending, life expectancy, and workforce employment.

World Bank income level category⁵

Ukraine: Upper-Middle-Income Economies

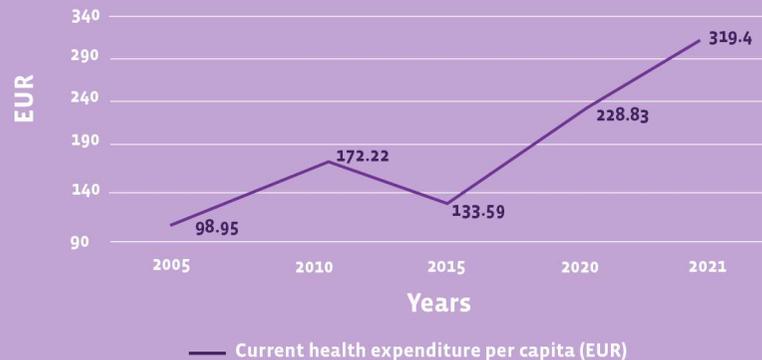
Overall healthcare expenditure as a percentage of GDP⁶

Ukraine's health expenditure increased from 6.35% of GDP in 2005 to 8.2% in 2021, showing an overall upward trend despite a slight dip in 2020.



Health expenditure per capita⁷

Ukraine's per capita health expenditure rose from EUR 98.95 in 2005 to EUR 319.4 in 2021, showing strong growth after 2015.



Life expectancy (male/female)^{8,9}

When analysed by gender, Ukraine shows a significantly wider disparity in life expectancy compared to both the EU and the WHO European Region averages. Ukrainian women lived ≈11 years longer than Ukrainian men; this gender gap had slightly widened to 13 years in 2023, with female life expectancy reaching 80 years and male life expectancy 67 years. The persistent gender difference in life expectancy is primarily attributed to behavioural factors, particularly higher rates of alcohol and tobacco use among men.¹

Life expectancy at birth from 2005 to 2023, by gender



The employment rate in the healthcare sector*

Reliable employment statistics for the healthcare sector, including data on pharmacists, are currently unavailable.

*Data in this section were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

5. HEALTH SERVICE STATUS

1. Coverage rates for essential health services

The UHC service coverage index has increased steadily from 54 in 2005 to 76 in 2021.¹⁰ However, the coverage rate is still below the average of the WHO European Region (81), but the gap is steadily narrowing.¹ Nearly all primary healthcare facilities remained operational throughout the war, with two-thirds continuing services despite staff absences; many adjusted their hours and extended care to displaced populations. However, service volumes fluctuated due to population shifts.¹¹ Coverage of routine childhood vaccinations dropped sharply in 2022, raising concerns about the resurgence of measles, polio, and hepatitis B.^{12, 13} The 2017–2019 healthcare reforms successfully introduced a contract-based model with the NHSU, promoting transparency, digitalisation, and patient choice.^{3, 14, 15}

2. Availability and accessibility of health insurance options

Ukraine ensures near-universal health coverage based on legal residence rather than contributions.¹⁶ Primary care and essential services are publicly funded through the NHSU.¹⁷ Public health expenditure grew from 2.5% of GDP in 2000 to 4.1% in 2021, with the share of public funding in total health spending rising from 44.8% in 2019 to 51% in 2021.¹ Despite initiatives like the “Affordable Medicines” programme, out-of-pocket payments remain high, particularly for medicines and inpatient care; in 2021, it was reported that 17% of households faced catastrophic health expenditures.^{1, 18}

3. Policies and strategies implemented within the pharmacy context to promote health and prevent diseases

Pharmacists in Ukraine are moving towards a patient-oriented model, participating in health promotion, disease prevention, and chronic disease management. They play a vital role in providing information on medication safety, adverse reactions, and support for vulnerable populations.¹⁹ However, regulatory and educational gaps still limit greater integration into broader public health roles compared to EU counterparts.²⁰ Moreover, both clinical and hospital pharmacy roles remain significantly underdeveloped.²¹

At the same time, Ukraine’s healthcare system has placed a stronger emphasis on primary care and the development of family medicine as the foundation of the healthcare system.¹⁷ The Affordable Medicines Programme (AMP) complements these efforts by reimbursing essential medications for chronic diseases through an e-prescription system, enabling free or low-cost access to treatment via thousands of participating pharmacies. Pharmacy participation in e-prescribing exceeded 80% of doctors and pharmacists by 2019, integrating pharmacies into public health efforts.^{14, 22-24}

4. Availability and accessibility of patient medical records (including pharmacy access)*

Electronic medical records are accessible to primary care providers and other doctors, but pharmacists do not yet have access. Additionally, a lack of interoperability among electronic health record systems means accessibility depends heavily on the specific software used by each institution.

*Data in this section were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

6. PHARMACY WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Pharmacy workforce capacity (Year 2025)

40,000* Number of licensed pharmacists in the country

*This number was provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

Distribution across the area of practice*

There is no systematic data collection on pharmacy workforce capacity or distribution in Ukraine. The war has driven significant migration among pharmacists, leading to an uneven workforce distribution across the country. Even in relatively safer regions, there is a widespread shortage of pharmacy personnel, with some pharmacies remaining closed for months due to a lack of qualified staff. Instances of non-pharmacists or students operating pharmacies have also emerged and are not uncommon.

*Data in this section were provided by the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.

7. CURRENT POLICIES, URGENCIES AND PRIORITIES WITH PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES PROVISION

Key insights from the All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber on:

1. Innovative practices that have successfully improved health outcomes and addressed inefficiencies within Ukraine's healthcare system

At the initiative of the NGO "All-Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber" in Ukraine:



vaccination in pharmacies has been permitted;



Distance (non-full-time) pharmacy education has been prohibited;



Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) standards have been developed and recommended by FIP for adoption in Ukraine; currently, they are undergoing the process of preparation for approval through an Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine;



An electronic prescription system has been introduced for medicines dispensed under reimbursement programmes, as well as for antibiotics and controlled medicines that include substances legally classified as narcotics under Ukrainian Law;



A working group was established to develop a draft project on pharmaceutical services in cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee on Public Health and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

2. Significant challenges currently facing the pharmacy profession in Ukraine



The first challenge relates to variation in training quality and inconsistencies in assessment standards across universities under the Ministry of Education. For example, outcomes of the KROK 1.2 examination (an independent external assessment conducted by education quality assessment centres) indicate comparatively stronger performance among universities subordinated to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine compared to universities under the Ministry of Education, highlighting disparities in educational outcomes and the need for greater standardisation in training and assessment.



The second, and most pressing, issue is the absence of key professional laws: the Law "On Pharmaceutical Activity" and the Law "On Pharmaceutical Self-Governance."



A related issue concerns licensing conditions, which currently define a pharmacy as a retail outlet for medicines rather than a healthcare institution providing medication support and pharmaceutical services. In Ukraine, pharmacies are in practice regulated as commercial trade entities.



The absence of a National Policy on pharmaceutical provision (medicines supply) for the population in Ukraine is another significant issue leading to inconsistent access and high out-of-pocket costs for patients.



A further challenge is the **prohibition by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on healthcare institutions purchasing medicines compounded in pharmacies**, as well as the introduction of 20% VAT on pharmacy-compounded medicines compared to 7% VAT on industrially manufactured medicines.

3. Reimbursed pharmacy services beyond dispensing

None of the services provided by pharmacy professionals to patients in pharmacies are reimbursed or paid for, and pharmacies survive solely through profit margins or mark-ups on medicines. This system does not allow pharmacies to develop in economically depressed regions, rural communities or frontline areas, nor for pharmacies to develop compounding/production or palliative care support services.

4. Current projects and priorities aligned with FIP Developmental Goals

All of the above-mentioned projects and challenges are being advanced by NGO AUPC in Ukraine exclusively in cooperation with the FIP team, which for many years has taken an active part in Ukraine's activities, including the international pharmaceutical forum "Pharmacies of the World," which is held annually in Ukraine.

Also, in collaboration with the FIP, the NGO 'All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber' (NGO AUPC) and the 'Pharmaceutical Professional Association of Ukraine (PPAU), we have developed new recommendations for 'Good Pharmaceutical Practice' for 2025 and submitted them to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine for approval. This is strongly aligned with FIP Development Goals and FIP policies.

Guidance for pharmacy-based vaccination services was also developed based on FIP guidelines and policies.

AUPC and FIP are currently working together to address important challenges in the country related to safeguarding the quality and safety of medicines through robust institutional design and processes for licensing medical products, pharmacovigilance, inspectorate (GMP / GDP) and official medicines quality control.

AUPC and FIP are also collaborating to address the systemic regulatory, economic, professional, and governance concerns arising from pharmaceutical reforms adopted in Ukraine during 2024–2025 which place enormous pressures on the economic viability of community pharmacies and limit their capacity to provide pharmaceutical care.



DATA SOURCES AND VALIDATION

The data and information presented in FIP case studies are derived primarily from a desktop review of publicly available sources and relevant documents, complemented by in-house data that FIP has collated. The sources and methods underlying these data are fully cited and referenced to ensure transparency and traceability. Additional data were obtained directly from the respective FIP member organisation (MO). All data were subsequently reviewed and validated by the FIP MO to ensure accuracy, completeness, and reliability.

REFERENCES

1. Shuftan N, Eriksen A, Aregay A, Cairns D, Kasyanchuk S, Richardson E. Health Systems in Action (HSiA) Insights – Ukraine. Copenhagen: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2024. Available at: <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/eeb2d702-6a98-4375-a119-dbe7214fc581/content>
2. World Health Organization. Results of initial health labour market analysis in Ukraine. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2024. Available at: <https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/196c4d39-7bdd-4218-ab74-84642acc5dd6/content>
3. WHO, World Bank. Health financing in Ukraine: reform, resilience and recovery (Synthesis report). World Health Organization; 2024. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/health-financing-in-ukraine--reform--resilience-and-recovery--synthesis-report>
4. Seleznova V, Pinchuk I, Feldman I, Virchenko V, Wang B, Skokauskas N. The battle for mental well-being in Ukraine: mental health crisis and economic aspects of mental health services in wartime. *Int J Ment Health Syst.* 2023;17(1):28. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37749608/>
5. The World Bank. World Bank Country and Lending Groups 2026. Available at: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.
6. World Bank Group. Current health expenditure (% of GDP) - Ukraine: World Bank Group; 2025. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.GD.ZS?locations=UA>.
7. World Bank Group. Current health expenditure per capita (current US\$) - Ukraine: World Bank Group; 2025. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.PC.CD?locations=UA>.
8. World Bank Group. Life expectancy at birth, male (years) - Ukraine: World Bank Group; 2025. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.MA.IN?locations=UA>.
9. World Bank Group. Life expectancy at birth, female (years) - Ukraine: World Bank Group; 2025. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.FE.IN?locations=UA>.
10. World Health Organization. UHC service coverage index - Ukraine: World Health Organization; 2024. Available at: <https://data.who.int/indicators/i/3805B1E/9A706FD>.
11. World Health Organization. New WHO assessment reveals resilience of Ukraine's primary health-care system amid the war 2023. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/12-10-2023-new-who-assessment-reveals-resilience-of-ukraine-s-primary-health-care-system-amid-the-war>.
12. World Health Organization. WHO Immunization Data portal – Ukraine: World Health Organization; 2025. Available at: <https://immunizationdata.who.int/dashboard/regions/european-region/UKR>.
13. Bushkovska N. Vaccination in the war in Ukraine. *Bmj.* 2023;381:963. Available at: <https://www.bmj.com/content/381/bmj.p963.long>
14. Management Sciences for Health. Electronic Prescriptions: Enabling Health Care Reform in Ukraine: Management Sciences for Health; 2020. Available at: <https://msh.org/story/electronic-prescriptions-enabling-health-care-reform-in-ukraine/>.
15. Malakhov KS. Insight into the Digital Health System of Ukraine (eHealth): Trends, Definitions, Standards, and Legislative Revisions. *Int J Telerehabil.* 2023;15(2):e6599. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38162941/>
16. United Nations in Ukraine. New WHO report outlines concrete steps to make health care more accessible for people in Ukraine 2023. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/15-06-2023-new-who-report-outlines-concrete-steps-to-make-health-care-more-accessible-for-people-in-ukraine>.
17. World Health Organization. Refining primary health care financing in Ukraine: examining provider costs and impact of war 2024. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/21-05-2024-refining-primary-health-care-financing-in-ukraine--examining-provider-costs-and-impact-of-war>.
18. World Health Organization. Can people afford to pay for health care? New evidence on financial protection in Ukraine. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2023. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/9789289060165>
19. Hala L, Kosyachenko K, Polova Z, Konoshevych L. The growing role of pharmacists in society and prospects for their professional activities. *News of Pharmacy.* 2024;108:3-9. Available at: <http://nphj.nuph.edu.ua/article/view/312033>
20. Pashkov V, Hnedik Y. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR VACCINATION IN PHARMACIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. *Poltava law review.* 2023. Available at: <https://plr.nlu.edu.ua/article/view/290479/285637>
21. Zimenkovsky A, Nastuykha Y, Kostyana K, Devinyak O, Zayats M, Koval A, et al., editors. Clinical pharmacy in Ukraine according to the healthcare professionals' assessment 2019. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/org/science/article/pii/S0428029619000234>
22. Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Affordable Medicines Programme: what are the development priorities for 2024? : Ministry of Health of Ukraine; 2024. Available at: <https://moz.gov.ua/en/affordable-medicines-programme-what-are-the-development-priorities-for-2024>.
23. World Health Organization. Ukraine's Affordable Medicines Programme shown to have significantly improved access to medicines: World Health Organization; 2019. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/12-04-2019-ukraine-s-affordable-medicines-programme-shown-to-have-significantly-improved-access-to-medicines>.
24. Reforms Delivery Office. Affordable Medicines: Reforms Delivery Office (Ukraine); 2019. Available at: <https://rdo.in.ua/en/affordable-medicines>.

