

FINANCIAL AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES IN UKRAINE. HEALTH INDEX.UKRAINE 2017 STUDY

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Drugs play an important role in the healthcare system for both consumers and individuals who form and implement policies in this area. On average, 16% of healthcare expenditures is spent on drugs in OECD countries (not including hospital costs) (OECD Indicators / OECD 2017). In Ukraine, the cost of the retail sale of medical products funded by households (99.8%) (NHA 2016).

The financial availability of drugs remains an insurmountable obstacle to many healthcare systems. This is especially characteristic for countries with developing economies, and economies in transition, where 50 to 90% of drugs purchased by people with their own money (J.W. Van Mil, M. Schulz, T.F. Tromp, 2004).

Methods: Results of the national household survey "Health Index. Ukraine", 2016, 2017. Sociological, analytical, comparative methods have used.

Results in general: 21.6% of respondents reported too high the cost of drugs as the main reason for the unavailability of drugs.

23.8% respondents-women and 18.6% respondents-men indicated on too high cost of drugs as the main reason for their unavailability. Almost every third respondent aged 60 and older (33.4%) felt the burden of drugs cost.

The main reason for refusal to purchase drugs prescribed by the doctor is the lack of funds as reported almost every second respondent.

Expenditures for drugs from a personal or family budget over the past 30 days was 610.9 UAH (\$ 25).

Concluding remarks. Access to medicines remains a significant problem for Ukrainian population. Households spent nearly 11% of the average total costs to purchase drugs. An important priority of state policy should remain effective pricing of drugs, primarily to protect the interests of unprotected groups of the population.

Further expansion of the Government Program "Available drugs" taking into account economic possibilities of the country, morbidity of the population and principles of rational use of drugs is necessary.