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**ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING PATIENT'S WITH
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT «AFFORDABLE MEDICINES»**

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Summary. To reduce the financial burden on patients with cardiovascular disease in 2017, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine developed the Government program reimbursement "Affordable Medicines". In the study, we examined the factors that influence patients' decision to participate in the program. Based on the results obtained, ways to increase the effectiveness of the program and methods to increase patient participation in the program were proposed.

Key words: government program reimbursement "Affordable Medicines", cardiovascular diseases, primary care physician, pharmacist.

High drug costs are a major barrier to patient adherence to pharmacotherapy of cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Various reimbursement programs are being developed to reduce the financial burden on patients. The government reimbursement program "Affordable Medicines" was developed by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in 2017 in order to reduce the financial burden on patients and increase the availability of medicines [1]. The program is open to patients with CVD (ischemic heart disease (IHD), arterial hypertension (AH), bronchial asthma, diabetes mellitus type II). The program includes 293 drugs, of which 70 are free. The program

"Affordable Medicines" include 226 drugs for the treatment of CVD and for primary and secondary prevention of heart attacks and strokes, 51 drugs for the treatment of diabetes mellitus type II, 16 drugs for the treatment of bronchial asthma [3]. To improve the program "Affordable Medicines", it is necessary to identify the factors that influence patients' decision to participate in this program. The study involved 124 patients with CVD aged 30 to 90 years, the mean age was 70.75 ± 10.3 . The distribution by sex was as follows: 44 male (35.49%) and 80 female (64.51%). Among the surveyed patients there were 62 (50%) patients with AH, 10 (8.06%) patients with IHD and 52 (41.94%) patients had a combined pathology AH with IHD.

Depending on the participation of patients with CVD in the government's reimbursement program "Affordable Medicines", they were divided into two groups. The I group consisted of 92 patients participating in the program, among them were 46 patients with AH, 10 patients with IHD and 36 patients with combined pathology AH with IHD. Group II includes 32 patients who did not enjoy the benefits of the program "Affordable Medicines", including 15 patients with AH, 17 patients with AH and IHD. All patients answered the questionnaire concerning awareness of the program "Affordable Medicines", satisfaction with the use of the program, willingness to extra pay for drugs and comments on the program (for patients of group I. Patients of group II explained the reasons for refusing to use the program "Affordable Medicines", expressed a desire to join the program and the conditions for the implementation of this decision, the desire to obtain additional information about the program.

Among the surveyed patients who use the "Affordable Medicines" program, 32 (34.78%) people expressed their satisfaction with participating in the program, and 60 (65.22%) remain dissatisfied with the benefits of the program. Among the reasons for patient dissatisfaction, the leading positions are the need to pay extra for some drugs (43.35% of patients) and the lack of drugs prescribed by a doctor (30.22% of patients); almost a quarter of patients (24.08%) are dissatisfied with queues at the pharmacy and incorrect operation of the computer program (2.35% of patients). Among the reasons for refusing to participate in the "Affordable Medicines" program,

the reluctance to visit a doctor (37.5%) and the lack of drugs needed by the patient (34.37%) prevailed. Another 28.13% of patients were unaware of the existence of this program. At the same time, 43.75% of patients expressed a desire to participate in the program "Affordable Medicines".

Among the conditions under which patients would participate in the program, the following were put forward: receiving more information 40.62%, recommendation of acquaintances who already use the program 37.5% and 21.87% of patients offered their answer: availability in the list the medicines they need and the lack of a queue for a family doctor. We also noted the desire of 53.13% of patients to receive additional information about the benefits of the "Affordable Medicines" program. At the same time, 76.47% of patients wanted to get it from a family doctor and 23.53% from a pharmacist in a pharmacy. The lack of patient participation in the program "Affordable Medicines" is in most cases due to insufficient communication with the primary care physician, who provides information to patients about the program and prescribes medications. We also found that among the conditions required for patients to join the program "Affordable Medicines", most are related to improved communication with primary care physicians by improving patient awareness of the program and improving the organization of care by reducing queues.

In our opinion, the availability of electronic records to the doctor in some way solves the issue of queues. The results also support the need to increase the effectiveness of patient communication not only with doctors but also with pharmacists of pharmacy chains, which will increase the number of patients participating in the "Affordable Medicines" program by almost a quarter.

In addition, to increase the activity of patients to use the program "Affordable Medicines" it is necessary to improve the quality of domestically produced drugs; to carry out explanatory work among patients about sufficient efficiency of domestic drugs; find ways to optimize the percentage of mandatory surcharge for medicines.

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