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Comparative Analysis of Legislations and Market Access of Cannabis Medicines in Poland and Ukraine

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OBJECTIVES: There is ambiguous situation around cannabinoid medicines on market and legislative in Ukraine. However in 12 countries in EU the Cannabis medicines are available on the markets. The aim of our study was to compare to the market access, legislative, list of Cannabis medicines and their cost in Poland and Ukraine.

METHODS: Comparative analysis on Cannabis medicines from websites of Ministry of Health of Poland and Ukraine.

RESULTS: We established that cannabinoid medicines, such as Dronabinol, Nabinol, Nabiximols, which were included in "List of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors" are allowed for use due to Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. April, 2021. These medicines don't have an affordable prices, they are more than 50 times expensive than extracts of Cannabis. Epidiolex spray against epilepsy treatment is not allowed, it stayed under the law. There are Cannabis medicines not presented in the State Register of Medicinal Products in Ukraine.

In Poland medical cannabis was registered since October 2018, in the form of dried female inflorescences of the Cannabis plant. Medical marijuana is not a reimbursed medication now. The average price of 1 gr is 65 PLN (1 Euro=4,4 PLN) in packages 5 gr, 10 gr. We calculated cost for certain conditions per month with marijuana. it can cost up to 2,000 PLN. The high price is primarily due to the necessity of importing these medications from Canada. However, in 2020, the VAT tax was reduced from 23% to 8%. This applies to products from the Germany, which vary in THC content. There is currently available on the market only one Cannabis preparation.

CONCLUSIONS: We established a significant difference between market access of Cannabis medicines in Poland and Ukraine. The cost is high in Poland, so reimbursement is necessary. There is a need to harmonize the legislative regarding Cannabis medicines in Ukraine with Poland.

Ukraine Cannabis Law Process



2000	Decree of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 770 of May 6, 2000 "On approval of the list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursorslabore"
2021	Draft Law No. 4553-1 of January 18, 2021, "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Regulation of the Circulation of Cannabis Plants and Their Processing Products for Medical, Scientific, and Industrial Purposes"
2023	Draft Law No. 7457 of June 10, 2022 "On Regulation of the Circulation of Cannabis Plants for Medical, Industrial Purposes, Scientific, and Scientific-Technical Activities to Create Conditions for Expanding Patients' Access to the Necessary Treatment of Oncological Diseases and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders Acquired as a Result of War"