



**STATE INSTITUTION
«PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE»**

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№ _____

**Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, New Jersey
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**Mr. Joaquin DUATO
Chief Executive Officer**

Dear Mr. Duato!

The State Institution “Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine” (hereinafter – the PHC) would like to express its deep respect and address the following.

The PHC performs the function of the national coordinator for tuberculosis in Ukraine. In addition to direct coordination of tuberculosis medical care for the population, the PHC establishes mechanisms of intersectoral cooperation, initiates social projects, mobilizes efforts and actively cooperates with partners, including non-governmental organizations.

Unfortunately, Ukraine is among the 30 countries with a high burden of drug-resistant tuberculosis. For more than a year and a half, our country has been confronting the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, which has certainly created a number of challenges, including in the field of tuberculosis control. The armed aggression has already led to a large-scale humanitarian crisis and, in the future, will cause an increase in the spread of tuberculosis (according to WHO and experts working in the field), as proven by the experience of military conflicts in the world. In the first half of 2023, 10763 tuberculosis cases, including relapses, were registered in Ukraine, including 2769 cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

It should be noted that even in such difficult conditions, Ukraine is rapidly adapting national standards to current WHO recommendations. The main treatment regimens WHO recommends for people with drug-resistant tuberculosis include bedaquiline. In other words, in the first half of this year alone, more than 2,000 people in Ukraine needed bedaquiline treatment.



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ДУ "Центр громадського здоров'я МОЗ України"
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In the context of the crisis situation caused by the military aggression against Ukraine, the PHC expresses concern about possible problems with guaranteed access to bedaquiline for both people with TB who have remained in Ukraine and those who were forced to go abroad due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

Johnson & Johnson has held a monopoly on the production of bedaquiline for the past 20 years. The current global price for this drug, including for Ukraine, is USD 272 for a 6-month treatment course, while the average salary in Ukraine as of early 2023 was about USD 350 per month (<https://www.pfu.gov.ua/2158510-pokaznyk-serednoyi-zarobitnoyi-platy-za-2023-rik>). Researchers have estimated that the cost of a course of bedaquiline treatment could be three to six times lower, ranging from USD 48 to USD 102 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28073970/>).

Paragraph 19 of the Political Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, which was held for the first time in 2018, declared the promotion of access to affordable medicines, including generic medicines, for the treatment of tuberculosis, in particular, its drug-resistant forms.

To ensure the continuity of tuberculosis treatment in Ukraine in the context of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war, we ask for your assistance in creating conditions for free access to quality medicines at an affordable price for people with tuberculosis.

Kind regards

General Director

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