

Nothing about us without us!

Initiative of CF “Patients of Ukraine” regarding the appointment of the Minister of Health of Ukraine

Ensuring the uninterrupted functioning of patients' access to health services is the basic and the main obligation of the Minister of Health.

There have been 19 Ministers of Health during 23 years of Ukraine's independence. This means that almost every year Ukrainian health care system was pulled into new direction. Because of this as well as of complete lack of the institutional memory the health care reform has not been possible during this time. Besides that, all the ministers and their deputies had been appointed by the quota principle of the political parties and not by the open competition. All of this had greatly hindered the work of the Ministry and contributed to the prosperity of corruption schemes within the Ministry, which have often been linked to the various political parties, oligarchic clans and officials of the highest level. This year's failure of drug tenders for government treatment programs for serious diseases is the most striking proof that these mechanisms cannot and shouldn't exist within the Ministry in the future. The system of appointment of the Minister and his deputies must be changed and must be based on European standards and principles. Only in this case the prompt and effective reform of health care reform will be possible in Ukraine.

On the eve of appointment of the new Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine CF “Patients of Ukraine”, as the initiator of the Strategic Advisory Group regarding health care reform under the Ministry of Health, initiates a public discussion of the candidate for the post of the Minister of health as well as all of his deputies. We require:

1. Open announcement of the vacancy of the Minister of Health and his deputies.
2. Public interviews with candidates for the post of Minister of health and his deputies. In order to do this we initiate the establishment of a public commission consisting of representatives of the patient, doctor, international and national organizations and experts.

Commission will only approve the candidate for the post of Minister of Health and his deputies that will meet the following criteria.

The criteria will include criteria for lustration, qualification requirements, the vision of health care reform and cooperation with national and international organizations.

Qualification requirements:

Candidate for the post of Minister of Health:

1. Cannot be associated with any corruption schemes or scandals and must not have any experience in working as Minister of Health of Ukraine.
2. Must introduce a strong team which he has full confidence in and also he must have experience in managing for 3 years the least.
3. Must declare no conflict with pharmaceutical, medical and other relevant business.
4. Must not be a practicing doctor.
5. Must have excellent communicative and diplomatic skills.

6. Must be fluent in Ukrainian and English in order to personally negotiate with donors and international partners.
7. Preferable should have experience in various sectors of health care system: private, NGO, public and others.
8. Must have a university degree, preferably from Western university and must not have Soviet academic degree.

Program

The candidate for the post of Minister of Health must present his own vision of the medicine reform in Ukraine and also of the cooperation with patient, public, doctor and international organizations.

Lustration criteria: according to the article 4 of Law of Ukraine “On lustration”¹

We urge all patient, public, anticorruption, international organizations, representatives of doctor communities and other activist to join our initiative! The motivational letter regarding the wish to participate in the public discussion as well as propositions can be sent to the address: office@patients.org.ua till November 2, 2014.

¹ <http://zakon1.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1682-18>