
**COOPERATION OF HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS
IN THE CONTEXT OF UKRAINE'S INTEGRATION INTO
THE EU: THEORETICAL AND LEGAL FOUNDATIONS**

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INTRODUCTION

The process of Ukraine's integration into the European Union objectively necessitates aligning the Ukrainian healthcare system with EU standards and strengthening cooperation between Ukrainian healthcare institutions and the respective healthcare institutions of the EU Member States. Such cooperation has not only a practical dimension, related to improving the quality and accessibility of medical services, but also an important theoretical and legal foundation that defines the mechanisms of interaction, legal guarantees, and principles of functioning. At the current stage of development, Ukraine's healthcare system is characterized by intensive reforms driven both by the internal needs of society and by the external challenges of the European integration process. In this context, a comprehensive approach to the transformation of Ukraine's healthcare system acquires particular importance, one that involves not only organizational and financial reforms but also the institutionalization of mechanisms for the protection of patients' rights. At the same time, patients' rights in the field of cross-border medical care are inextricably linked to the secure processing of personal data, which constitutes a component of both Ukraine's information security and national security. Therefore, the strategic vector of the development of Ukraine's healthcare system should be based on the principles of European values and standards, include the process of aligning Ukrainian legislation with the *acquis* of the EU, and ensure that Ukrainian citizens enjoy equal rights with the citizens of EU Member States in terms of access to high-quality and safe medical services.

**1. The Current State of the Issues of Healthcare Institutions
Cooperation in the Process of Ukraine's European Integration**

The prerequisites for the emergence of the problem of healthcare institutions' cooperation in Ukraine are determined by a number of interrelated factors: firstly, the state's European integration course and the acquisition of candidate

status for EU membership have emphasized the need to approximate Ukrainian legislation to the EU *acquis*; secondly, Ukraine's geopolitical location and the presence of an extensive border with EU member states (including Slovakia, Poland, Romania, and Hungary) determine the need for the creation of effective legal mechanisms of interaction in the field of healthcare, particularly in border regions; thirdly, the development of cross-border patient mobility, the need to ensure an adequate level of medical services, and the protection of personal data generate additional challenges that require comprehensive legal regulation. The existing legal framework for the cooperation of healthcare institutions in Ukraine is implemented through constitutional provisions and special laws, such as the Law of Ukraine "Fundamentals of the Legislation of Ukraine on Health Care",¹ "On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine"² "On Personal Data Protection"³ and subordinate regulatory legal acts. At the same time, the existing legal mechanisms remain fragmented and do not constitute a coherent legal framework capable of ensuring the effective development of cooperation in the field of health care. Particularly relevant are the insufficiently regulated issues concerning the guarantee of patients' rights to cross-border medical services in accordance with Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare,⁴ as well as the issues of protecting individuals in connection with the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data in accordance with EU standards, including the provision of information security in the sphere of cross-border exchange of medical information.⁵ Inadequate regulation gives rise to risks of leakage of sensitive personal data, which entails complex consequences ranging from individual legal implications to issues of national security, given the strategic importance of the healthcare sector for the state. Under these conditions, the primary task of optimizing development is the approximation of Ukraine's legislation to the *acquis* of the EU, the establishment of a unified and comprehensive regulatory framework for cooperation, the strengthening of the institutional capacity of healthcare system

¹ Закону України «Основи законодавства України про охорону здоров'я». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2801-12#Text>

² Закону України «Про міжнародне територіальне співробітництво України». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3668-20#Text>

³ Закон України «Про захист персональних даних». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2297-17#Text>

⁴ Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/oj/eng>

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance). URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

entities, as well as the introduction of modern regulatory standards in the field of cybersecurity and information security. Only a comprehensive and systematic implementation of these tasks will ensure the integration of Ukraine's national healthcare system into the European healthcare area, guarantee equal access of citizens to quality medical care, as well as provide adequate legal regulation of the secure processing, use, and preservation of personal medical data. Thus, the issue of cooperation between healthcare institutions in Ukraine encompasses a number of interrelated dimensions, namely legal, organizational, and information-security. Overcoming these challenges requires the systematic approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the EU *acquis*, strengthening the institutional capacity of healthcare system actors, and the application of modern standards of information and cyber security, which together will ensure the integration of Ukraine's healthcare system into the European healthcare space.

2. Legal and Theoretical Frameworks for the Cooperation of Healthcare Institutions in Ukraine

In view of the identified challenges in the cooperation of healthcare institutions, it is necessary to analyze the legal acts that lay the groundwork for the functioning of the relevant legal relations. Constitutional provisions, special laws of Ukraine, and subordinate legal acts constitute the legal framework that determines the status of healthcare institutions, their mechanisms of cooperation, and the guarantees of patients' rights. Their analysis will make it possible not only to identify gaps or inconsistencies in legal regulation, but also to outline potential directions for approximation to the EU *acquis*. The Constitution of Ukraine enshrines fundamental values and principles that serve as the basis for legal regulation in the field of healthcare, including the cooperation of healthcare institutions. In particular, Article 3 of the Fundamental Law proclaims that "the human being, his or her life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security are recognized in Ukraine as the highest social value,"⁶ which defines healthcare as one of the key foundations of state policy and determines the necessity of proper institutional interaction in this sphere. It is important to emphasize that the Constitution of Ukraine enshrines provisions according to which "human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the content and direction of the activities of the state. The state is accountable to the individual for its activities. The establishment and protection of human rights and freedoms are the primary duty of the state."⁷ In this way, the Constitution of Ukraine imposes on the state the obligation to ensure the

⁶ Конституція України. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80#Text>

⁷ Ibid.

realization and protection of rights and freedoms, identifying them as a priority guideline of state policy. In this context, an individual's life and health are recognized as fundamental national and social values, for the protection of which the state bears responsibility. Thus, the right of an individual to life and health acquires its substantive content through the state's guarantees of their effective protection and safeguarding. Of particular importance for the regulation of relations in the field of healthcare is Article 49 of the Constitution of Ukraine, which establishes that "everyone has the right to healthcare, medical assistance, and medical insurance."⁸ The same Article of the Constitution of Ukraine stipulates that "healthcare is ensured through state funding of relevant socio-economic, medical, sanitary, and health-prevention programs. The state shall create conditions for effective and accessible medical services for all citizens. In state and communal healthcare institutions, medical assistance is provided free of charge; the existing network of such institutions may not be reduced. The state shall promote the development of healthcare institutions of all forms of ownership"⁹. This constitutional provision has fundamental significance, as it establishes the state's duty to ensure "...effective and accessible medical services for all citizens..." as well as "...the development of healthcare institutions of all forms of ownership..."¹⁰. In this context, the implementation of the relevant provisions may be carried out, in particular, through the development of proper and systematic cooperation in the field of healthcare, including the interaction of healthcare institutions in border regions. Thus, the mentioned constitutional provisions serve as a conceptual basis for the formation of adequate legal regulation of cooperation in the healthcare sector, including cooperation between healthcare institutions. The constitutional foundations of cooperation in the field of healthcare, including cooperation between healthcare institutions, are further developed not only in the Laws of Ukraine "Fundamentals of the Legislation of Ukraine on Healthcare"¹¹ "On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine"¹² and the Law of Ukraine "On Personal Data Protection",¹³ as well as in subordinate regulatory legal acts that detail the mechanisms of their practical implementation.

⁸ Конституція України. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80#Text>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Закон України Основи законодавства України про охорону здоров'я». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2801-12#Text>

¹² Закон України «Про міжнародне територіальне співробітництво України». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3668-20#Text>

¹³ Закон України «Про захист персональних даних». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2297-17#Text>

The Law of Ukraine “Fundamentals of Legislation on Health Care” establishes the legal, organizational, economic, and social foundations of health care in Ukraine, regulates social relations in this sphere with the aim of ensuring the harmonious development of citizens’ physical and spiritual capacities, high working capacity and long active life, eliminating factors harmful to their health, preventing and reducing morbidity, disability and mortality, and improving heredity.¹⁴ The Law of Ukraine “Fundamentals of Legislation on Health Care” contains specific provisions that directly regulate the cooperation of health care institutions. Part 9 of Article 3 of this Law defines a health care institution as “a legal entity of any form of ownership and organizational-legal form, or its separate subdivision, that provides medical services to the population on the basis of an appropriate license and the professional activity of medical (pharmaceutical) workers and rehabilitation specialists.”¹⁵ The enshrinement in legislation of a health care institution as a legal entity of any form of ownership and organizational-legal form (or its separate subdivision) is of significant importance for legal regulation in this sphere. Firstly, this approach provides a wide range of organizational models for functioning, from state and municipal to private and mixed forms of ownership. This creates the prerequisites for the establishment of a competitive environment in the field of medical care, which, in turn, contributes to improving the quality of medical services. Secondly, the emphasis on mandatory licensing and the professional activity of medical, pharmaceutical workers and rehabilitation specialists ensures that medical assistance is provided within the standards established by the state, which directly affects the safety and quality of medical services; Thirdly, the recognition of healthcare institutions as full-fledged legal entities enables them not only to operate within the domestic legal framework but also to act as participants in external legal relations in particular, to engage in international projects, conclude agreements with foreign partners, and carry out cross-border cooperation. This is particularly relevant in the context of Ukraine’s integration into the EU, where the legal autonomy of healthcare institutions is a prerequisite for their participation in cooperation programs, experience exchange, and joint projects. Thus, this provision in fact establishes the legal foundations for the institutional autonomy of healthcare institutions, ensuring their capacity not only to implement state policy in the field of healthcare, but also to act as active participants in cooperation aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of safe medical care.

¹⁴ Закон України Основи законодавства України про охорону здоров’я». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2801-12#Text>

¹⁵ Ibid.

Part 9 of Article 79 of this Law establishes that healthcare institutions “... have the right, in accordance with the legislation, to independently conclude agreements (contracts) with foreign legal entities and individuals on any forms of cooperation, to participate in the activities of relevant international organizations, and to carry out foreign economic activities”¹⁶. This provision is particularly important, as it not only enshrines the legal personality of healthcare institutions but also creates the legal framework for their integration into the European healthcare area. The consolidation of such a right creates conditions for the institutional autonomy of healthcare institutions, enabling them to act as independent participants, for example, in cross-border relations, to implement joint projects and programs in the field of healthcare, as well as to establish partnership relations with relevant foreign institutions. From a scientific perspective, this provision can be regarded as one of the key elements of the legal mechanism aimed at developing cross-border cooperation in the field of healthcare, which contributes to bringing Ukraine’s national healthcare system closer to EU standards and to enhancing the efficiency of medical services for the population.

Thus, the provisions of the Law of Ukraine “Fundamentals of Health Care Legislation” not only define the legal status of healthcare institutions as legal entities that may operate in various organizational-legal forms and forms of ownership, but also grant them a wide range of rights to establish partnership relations with other entities, including foreign ones. The enshrinement in legislation of the right of healthcare institutions to conclude agreements with foreign partners, participate in international organizations, and engage in foreign economic activity forms the legal basis for their integration into the European healthcare space. This, in turn, creates the legal prerequisites for the development of cross-border cooperation, the implementation of joint initiatives and programs aimed at modernizing Ukraine’s national healthcare system, increasing its efficiency, quality, and the accessibility of safe medical services. From a scholarly perspective, these provisions should be regarded as a fundamental instrument for the institutionalization of cooperation between healthcare institutions, which corresponds to contemporary integration processes and EU standards.

The Law of Ukraine “On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine” establishes the legal, economic, and organizational foundations of Ukraine’s international territorial cooperation with foreign states. It is aimed at fostering international territorial collaboration between states, regions,

¹⁶ Закон України «Основи законодавства України про охорону здоров’я». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2801-12#Text>

and territories in order to achieve balanced socio-economic development, safeguard state interests and security, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation with members of the international community. This cooperation is based on universally recognized principles and norms of international law, taking into account the historical, economic, environmental, geographical, and demographic characteristics of regions and territories.¹⁷ According to paragraph 14 of part one of Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine,” healthcare institutions are classified as participants in international territorial cooperation. They are vested with the right to engage in such cooperation within the scope of their own interests and the rights defined by law, as well as to implement cooperation in various forms provided for by current legislation.¹⁸ Granting healthcare institutions the status of participants in international territorial cooperation is of significant importance from both the perspective of law and the practice of its application. Firstly, this makes it possible to consider them not only as objects of state policy in the field of healthcare, but also as full-fledged participants in international legal relations, capable of independently initiating and implementing cross-border initiatives; secondly, the enshrinement in legislation of the possibility to participate in various forms of international territorial cooperation creates conditions for expanding the institutional autonomy and initiative of healthcare institutions. This is consistent with modern European approaches to the decentralization of governance, as well as the development and modernization of Ukraine’s healthcare system; thirdly, in practical terms, such a provision creates conditions for the implementation of joint programs in the field of public health, medical research, professional training of personnel, and the development of medical infrastructure, which is particularly relevant for Ukraine’s border regions. At the same time, this contributes to the approximation of national legislation to the *acquis* of the EU, since in the Member States healthcare institutions are regarded not only as components of national healthcare systems but also as partners in cross-border cooperation. As a result, healthcare institutions acquire the necessary legal instruments for active participation in international cooperation and for ensuring the improvement of both the accessibility and the quality of safe medical services.

Thus, the Law of Ukraine “*On International Territorial Cooperation of Ukraine*”¹⁹ plays a key role in shaping the legal foundations of cross-border interaction in the field of healthcare. Its provisions ensure the institutionalization

¹⁷ Закон України «Про міжнародне територіальне співробітництво України». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3668-20#Text>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

of healthcare institutions' participation in cooperation, creating conditions for the implementation of various forms of partnership and joint projects. This, in turn, not only enhances the institutional autonomy of healthcare institutions but also contributes to the development of regional programs aimed at expanding accessibility and improving the quality of safe medical services.

The Law of Ukraine "On Personal Data Protection" is a fundamental legal act that regulates legal relations related to the protection and processing of personal data and is aimed at safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, in particular the right to privacy, in connection with the processing of personal data. This Law applies to the processing of personal data carried out wholly or partly by automated means, as well as to the processing of personal data contained in a filing system or intended to be entered into a filing system by non-automated means.²⁰ The Law forms the foundation of the national system for the protection of personal data, which is an integral component of Ukraine's European integration process. Thus, the Law of Ukraine "On Personal Data Protection" plays a fundamental role in the legal regulation of healthcare institutions' cooperation. Its harmonization with European standards is a key prerequisite not only for the realization of patients' rights but also for strengthening Ukraine's information and national security.

To some extent, the issues of cooperation between healthcare institutions are further specified in subordinate regulatory legal acts. In particular, the State Program for the Development of Cross-Border Cooperation for 2021–2027 identifies among its priority tasks the intensification of cooperation between domestic and foreign healthcare institutions.²¹ A characteristic example of the regional approach is the Transboundary Cooperation Development Program of the Zakarpattia Region for 2021–2027, which provides for the deepening of interaction in the healthcare sector. Within this document, a number of measures are outlined, aimed at the activation and development of systematic cross-border cooperation, including in the sphere of interaction between healthcare institutions in border areas.²² The inclusion of specific tasks aimed at cooperation in the healthcare sector in regional programs demonstrates the intention to ensure a comprehensive and institutionally consolidated approach to integration at the level of border regions. Given its geographical location, Zakarpattia region serves as a kind of "bridge" for establishing partnership

²⁰ Закон України «Про захист персональних даних». URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2297-17#Text>

²¹ Державна програма розвитку транскордонного співробітництва на 2021–2027 роки. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/408-2021-%D0%BF#Text>

²² Програма розвитку транскордонного співробітництва Закарпатської області на 2021–2027 роки. URL: https://oda.carpathia.gov.ua/sites/default/files/upload/201203_0705.pdf

relations between Ukraine and the EU member states. Therefore, the measures set out in the Program can be regarded as a practical tool for implementing the provisions of national legislation and state strategies in the field of cross-border cooperation. They create legal and organizational prerequisites for improving the efficiency of healthcare services, harmonizing standards of medical care delivery, and strengthening the institutional capacity of healthcare institutions in the context of European integration processes. Cooperation between healthcare institutions is directly related not only to the cross-border movement of patients but also to ensuring their rights to receive medical services within the framework of international interaction. An important aspect in this context is also the guarantee of information security and the protection of patients' personal data, which acquires particular significance in light of the requirements of Ukraine's national security. Currently, the Procedure for Referring Citizens of Ukraine for Treatment Abroad, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 27, 2017, No. 1079, stipulates that *"Ukrainian citizens shall be referred for treatment abroad in order to receive medical care if such medical care cannot be provided by healthcare institutions in Ukraine, which must be confirmed by the conclusion of a group of experts of the Ministry of Health of the relevant profile."*²³ Such normative consolidation of the mechanism for referring Ukrainian citizens for treatment abroad is an important step in ensuring the right to healthcare and in bringing national legislation closer to the EU acquis. In this context, it is appropriate to compare it with the provisions of Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare,²⁴ which guarantees EU citizens the possibility of receiving medical services in other Member States and reimbursing expenses in accordance with the legislation of their country of origin. The Ukrainian model of referring patients for treatment abroad can be seen as an initial stage in shaping the European approach to patient mobility. At the same time, cross-border cooperation in the field of healthcare is inevitably linked to the processing of large volumes of personal medical data, which requires proper legal regulation in line with the EU acquis. In this aspect, it is also advisable to take into account the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of

²³ Про забезпечення організації направлення громадян України для лікування за кордон. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1079-2017-%D0%BF#-Text>

²⁴ Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/oj/eng>

personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance),²⁵ which establishes high standards for the protection of personal data, including sensitive medical data. Orientation toward the provisions of the Regulation is not only a prerequisite for safeguarding patients' rights but also a factor in ensuring Ukraine's information and national security. Therefore, under current conditions, the cooperation of healthcare institutions should be viewed as a multidimensional process that encompasses not only the organization of patient treatment abroad but also the proper legal protection of their personal data, harmonization with EU standards in the field of healthcare services, and integration into the unified European healthcare space.

At the same time, the current regulatory and legal framework for cross-border cooperation in the field of healthcare does not establish a comprehensive system of guarantees for patients. This very gap in the legal framework has become the subject of scholarly debate, particularly in the works of Ukrainian researchers. As emphasized by Derevianko B., Myronova H., and Muliar H., Ukrainian citizens can currently exercise only certain rights in the field of cross-border medical care, while in a number of aspects they remain partially restricted. The fragmented nature of the legal regulation of these relations is caused by the absence of a comprehensive regulatory and legal mechanism, which makes it impossible to fully realize patients' rights in accordance with EU standards.²⁶ The outlined issue demonstrates a systemic challenge for Ukraine, which consists in aligning national legislation with the *acquis* of the EU. Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare²⁷ establishes not only the right of patients to access medical services in the EU Member States but also defines mechanisms for reimbursement of expenses and guarantees of the quality of healthcare. The fragmented nature of similar mechanisms in Ukraine's national legislation creates risks of legal uncertainty and imposes actual limitations for patients. Moreover, cooperation is impossible without taking into account the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament

²⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance). URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

²⁶ Дерев'янюк Б., Миронова Г., Муляр Г. Забезпечення прав пацієнтів у відносинах з надання транскордонних медичних послуг. URL: <http://pprjournal.kiev.ua/archive/2023/22/7.pdf> С. 39–49

²⁷ Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/24/oj/eng>

and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance), зокрема медичної інформації.²⁸ Thus, the reform of the Ukrainian healthcare system should encompass not only organizational and financial aspects, but also the institutionalization of mechanisms for protecting patients' rights, including the right to the secure processing of personal data, which simultaneously meets the requirements of both information security and national security of Ukraine.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, given the identified problematic aspects and current integration guidelines, the further development of Ukrainian healthcare legislation should take place in close connection with European integration processes. At the same time, a key task is to ensure a comprehensive security system, in particular information security, which encompasses the protection of personal data and is directly linked to the guarantees of Ukraine's national security. In this context, having obtained the status of a candidate for EU membership, Ukraine must orient itself toward the fundamental acts of EU law that define the legal framework for cross-border cooperation in healthcare and guarantee patients' rights. The approximation of national legislation to the *acquis* of the EU, combined with the development of internal legal mechanisms in line with modern European approaches, is a necessary condition for the integration of Ukraine's healthcare system into the European space. The implementation of these measures will make it possible to establish a comprehensive legal model of cooperation between healthcare institutions, which will ensure Ukrainian citizens equal access to high-quality and safe medical services, as well as strengthen the resilience of the national healthcare system to contemporary challenges.

SUMMARY

The integration of Ukraine into the EU requires aligning the Ukrainian healthcare system with EU standards, including cooperation between healthcare institutions. Such cooperation has both a practical dimension—improving the quality and accessibility of medical services—and a legal foundation, which defines guarantees of patients' rights and the principles of interaction. Modern healthcare reforms are driven by the internal needs of society and

²⁸ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance). URL: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

the challenges of European integration, which require a comprehensive approach, including the institutionalization of mechanisms for protecting patients' rights. Particular importance is attached to cross-border healthcare services, where patients' rights are inseparably linked to the protection of personal data, which constitutes an integral part of Ukraine's information and national security. The approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the *acquis* of the EU, combined with the development of internal legal mechanisms, is a necessary condition for Ukraine's integration into the European healthcare space. This will allow for the creation of a coherent legal model of cooperation between healthcare institutions, ensuring citizens equal access to safe medical services and strengthening the resilience of the healthcare system to modern challenges.

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