

Ukraine's Independence Day – 24 August 2025

Today, on Ukraine's Independence Day, we celebrate not only the strength and resilience of the Ukrainian people but also the vital achievements in stroke care reached despite the challenges of war.

Since 2021, Ukraine has tripled its rates of reperfusion treatment: intravenous thrombolysis has risen from 4.6% to 11.3% of acute ischemic stroke cases, while mechanical thrombectomy has increased more than six-fold, reaching 2%. Today, 97% of stroke patients are treated in National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU)–contracted hospitals with specialised pathways.

These advances are the result of structural reforms and the adoption in 2024 of updated clinical standards aligned with the *Stroke Action Plan for Europe* – and of a shared commitment among Ukrainian professionals, the Ministry of Health, international partners, and national Ukrainian stroke scientific societies.

Post-stroke rehabilitation, historically underutilised, is expanding access to subacute phase rehabilitation has increased from 4.8% in 2021 to 13.4% in 2024. Yet, critical challenges remain in improving regional equity, ensuring structured follow-up, strengthening prevention, and reducing mortality, which remains 2–3 times higher than the EU average.

In a time of war, every improvement is a collective victory. Ukraine shows that recovery is not only about repairing what was destroyed, but about seizing the opportunity to build a more modern, equitable, and resilient system.

Today, we honour the courage of those who care and those who innovate, and we renew our commitment: to turn progress into lasting standards, so that everyone affected by stroke has access – anywhere in Ukraine and the European Region – to timely, high-quality care.