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## **THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE IN UKRAINE (LATE 1980s – 2020s)**

### **Summary**

*The article examines the entire process of the formation and development of family medicine in Ukraine in the late 1980s and the beginning 2000s. It has been established that the prerequisite for the formation of family medicine in Ukraine was the experience of most European countries in transitioning to primary health care by giving priority to general practice – family medicine, whose main task was to strengthen health and prevent disease. The main stages of the formation and development of primary health care in Ukraine (PHC) were identified and analyzed. Qualitative changes in the structural and organisational components of family medicine in the process of its formation and development were characterised. It is shown that the initial (experimental) stage (1987–1990s) of the formation of family medicine was a period of searching for an alternative to*

*the existing Soviet model of healthcare, which was based on narrow specialisation, which began with a large-scale experiment in the Lviv region (Drohobych). The process of institutionalization of family medicine (academic recognition and creation of departments (1990s)) is revealed. It has been established that the stage of regulatory consolidation (2000–2010) was a turning point when family medicine transformed from a local experiment into an official state strategy for the development of primary health care. Active reform and the organisation of pilot projects (2011-2017) are highlighted, which became a period of practical testing of new mechanisms for managing and financing medicine before its final transfer. It has been shown that the stage of transformation and financial autonomy (2018–2024) became the most radical period in the history of Ukrainian medicine, when family medicine transformed from a formal structure into the real foundation of the healthcare system. It has been established that at the current stage of development (2025 to present), family medicine in Ukraine has become the most stable and adaptive element of the healthcare system, capable of operating under extreme conditions.*

**Keywords:** *family medicine, primary health care, family doctor, health care, prevention.*