Where does the budget money for medicine disappear?

How the Ministry of Health withdraws budget money through businessmen close to the leadership

Healthcare budget reduction:	
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How the authorities increase prices by pretending to lower them	13
System problems	

Import substitution of medicines. Under this slogan, a number of domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers have grown in Belarus over the past decade. But, as our investigation revealed, the Ministry of Health approved the creation of a pool of fake medical supplies manufacturers, and buys imported medicines from them, for budget money, at a price several times higher than the market price

Healthcare budget reduction:

The Ministry of Health is talking about problems with money for the purchase of medicines. And although the critical shortage is still closed by unscheduled purchases, the lack of funds is already visible in providing doctors with means of protection against COVID, according to E.R. doctor Alexander Vashchula:

«Disposable masks that need to be issued and changed every two hours, are given 2-3-4 per day. They are saving money»

How effectively are the funds spent, that remain for hospital medicines? We conducted our own investigation and checked all 720 positions of planned medical supplies purchases at the end of the year and found that most of the prices for them are close to market prices.

ПОСТАВЩИКИ по	результатам процед	ур закуп	ок лекар	ственных средств по	плану 2020г. (на	01.12.2020)					
	Срок оплаты - от даты п	риемки то	вара по кол	личеству и качеству, есл	и иное не указано в та	блице					
	Срок поставки - от даты подписания спецификации, если иное не указано в таблице										
Международное непатентованное наименование	Дозировка, форма выпуска	Кол-во к закупке (фл. табл. капс.)	в т.ч. за счёт M3 (план)	Торговое название	Фирма-поставщик	Юридический адрес поставщика					
7 💌	8 🔻	9 🔻	10 💌	11 💌	12 💌	13					
Трастузумаб	пор-к для инфузий лиоф. (лиофилизат) 150 мг - 1.600 флаконов + пор-к для инфузий лиоф. (лиофилизат), в к-те с р-лем 440 мг - 8.880 флаконов или р-р для п/к введения 600мг - 8.880 флаконов	8 880	8 880	T-Маблиофилизат для приготовления концентрата для приготовления раствора для инфузий 440мг во флаконах в комплекте с растворителем 20мл во флаконах в упаковке №1	Нативита СООО, РБ	211361, Витебская обл., г.п.Бешенковичи, ул.Строителей, д.З					

 Производитель	Фасовка №	ол-во		Цена за уг (CIP)						Ha Ba	Условия	Валю плате	та	Срок поставки	
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БИОКАД ЗАО, РФ упаковано Нативита СООО, РБ	1	8 8				684,7			<mark>6 080 8</mark>			BYI		I-IV ke. 2020r.	

Consequences of previous Belsat investigations

The «Trastuzumab», which is used in the treatment of cancer, has become several times cheaper, although the supplier remained the same: the company «Nativita», controlled by Vitebsk businessman Alexey Sychev.

At the same time, Victoria Alexandrova, a consultant on investment projects in the pharmaceutical market, notes the specifics of Belarusian purchases:

«If we are talking about cancer medicines, we need to expand the number of patients and public access to medicines. This affects life expectancy, the mortality rate, and the quality of medical care. Therefore, it should be a priority of the state»

Fake medicines production

In our previous investigation, we uncovered a scheme according to which the system of the Ministry of Health overpaid millions of dollars annually to Sychev's structures. The scheme was as follows. Alexey Sychev built a factory for the production of supposedly domestic medicines. And he registered a number of medical supplies – including the anti-cancer «T-Mab», the Belarusian version of the previously mentioned «trastuzumab». And he began to supply this medicine to Belarusian hospitals:

«In terms of last year sales, Nativita became the leader in the oncology segment and took the 5th position in the ranking of companies in the hospital segment.»

In fact, the newly built Nativita factory in Beshenkovichi did not make a full cycle of manufacturing anticancer drugs, which was confirmed by Konstantin Frolenkov, Deputy Director for production of Nativita:

«At the beginning of March, we officially submitted documents to the Center of Expertise for making changes. We used to pack, but now we are moving to a full cycle.»

пор-к для инфузий лиоф 150 мг	2 150		2 100	T-Маб лиофилизат для приготовления раствора для инфузий 150мг во флаконах в упаковке №1	Нативита СООО, РБ	211361, Витебская обл., г.п.Бешенковичи, ул.Черняховского, 1	БИОКАД ЗАО, РФ упаковано ГП АКАДЕМФАРМ, РБ
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So, in the case of Trastuzumab, Nativita simply imported drugs produced by the Russian company Biocad. At first, they paid the state-owned Academpharm to pack them in Nativita boxes.

ТРАСТУЗ	вумаб
РАСЕЯ	БЕЛАРУСЬ
кошт у аптэцы	ГУРТАВЫ КОШТ ДЛЯ БЮДЖЭТУ
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Nati**Vita**

О компании Партнерство Социальные проекты Пациентам Пресс-центр Контакты 🛛 🕫 🔍



T-Ma6 (Trastuzumab)

Budget overpayments

After a while, they started packing themselves in Beshenkovichi. And sold to the budget, repackaged, a few times more expensive than the Biocad «Trastuzumab», which is sold in Russia under the brand name»Gertikad». Only on the acquisition of T-mab in 2017, the state overpaid more than 7 times, losing more than \$ 7 million.

«Lenalidomide», used to treat blood cancer, «Nativita» delivered to the budget in bulk 13 times more expensive than it costs in Russian pharmacies.

In 2015, Nativita sold to the state "Rituximab", another drug used to treat a deadly disease in which a person's immune system begins to attack their own organs. Belfarmatsiya bought it from Sychev at two times higher price than the pharmacy price in Russia.

	КОШТЫ ЛЕ	палидами	ду	
У РАСЕЙСЌАЙ АПТЭЦЫ	«леналідамід»	5 — 25 МГ	500 — 1000 BYN	
ЗАКУП У НАЦІВІТЫ ЗА БЮДЖЭТНЫЯ ГРОШЫ	«ЛЕНАЛІДАМІД»	15 МГ	5.220.59 BYN	*13
АРЫГІНАЛЬНЫ ЛЕК	«РЭЎЛЕМІД»	15 MF	каля 3000 BYN	

The deal was made in the form of a tender, in which Sychev's Nativita allegedly competed with another company of this businessman – Akonitfarma.

LEGAT.BY

СООО "НАТИВИТА" 15.01.2020

СООО "НАТИВИТА"

Информационная справка за 15.01.2020

Полное наименование	Совместное общество с ограниченной ответственностью "НАТИВИТА"
Сокращенное наименование (при наличии)	СООО "НАТИВИТА"
Организационно-правовая форма	Общество с ограниченной ответственностью
Ведомственная подчиненность	Прочие юридические лица без ведомственной подчиненности
Дата образования (государственной регистрации)	14.11.2012
Способ создания	Создание
Регистрирующий орган	Витебский областной исполнительный комитет
Дата впесения последней записи по субъекту	15.05.2019
Налоговый оргап, дата и место постановки на налоговый учст	Отдел по работе с плательщиками по Бешенковичскому району (код 302) 15.11.2012
	1 I

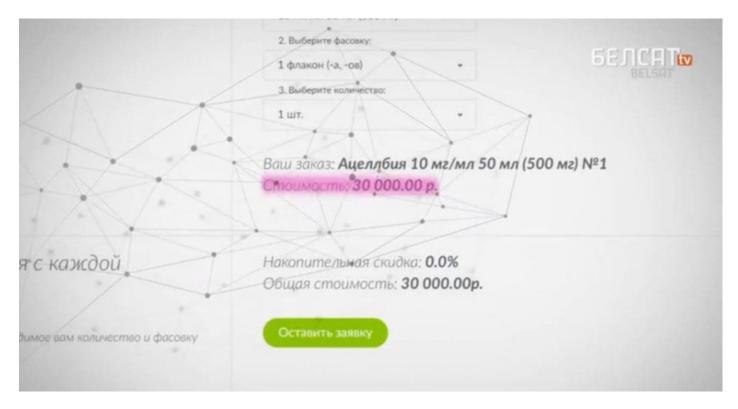
Позиция	Лекарственное средство РИТУКСИМАБ концентрат дта приготовления раствора для инфузий 500мг/50мл					
Код ОКРБ	24.42.13.800					
Наименование подвида ОКРБ	Лекарственные средства прочие, содержащие чистые или смешанные продукты, расфасованные для розничной торговли, не включенные в другие группировки					
Объем (количество)	2525.0 ед					
Цена (тариф) за единицу товара (работы, услуги)	13 029 898 BYR					
Страны происхождения товара	Российская Федерация					

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Simulation of competitive procurement

Zhanna Tarasevich, co-chairman of the Management Board, director of the Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers named after Professor Kunyavsky, told what this may indicate:

«If they are different legal entities, they can really participate in the same competition. If two or three such organizations participate in this tender, which has one owner, and this owner owns the main share of the capital, then this is also an imitation.»





СООО "НАТИВИТА" 15.01.2020

участников, с которыми заключен договор	
Места нахождения участников, с которыми заключен договор	211361, Витебская область, г.п. Бешенковичи, ул. Черняховского, 1
УНП участников (или номера документов, удостоверяющих личность, для физических лиц), с которыми заключен договор	391002753
Страны происхождения товара	Российская Федерация
Дата договора (решения об отмене/признания несостоявшейся)	30.05.2016
Объем (количество) поставки	3978 ед
Иные участники и цены их предложений	Совместное общество с ограниченной ответственностью АконитФарма, 391000921, 210023, Витебская область, г. Витебск, пр-т Фрунзе, 26, 3, 11235955975

The increase of the cost was possible, as a rule, due to the lack of competition. Belarusian officials slowed down the registration of other drugs of the same class, citing the fact that Belarus already has production of this drug. Although in fact it was not true - Nativita's medical supplies were also imported. In the spring of this year, when a registered drug similar to "Trastuzumab" appeared on the Belarusian market after overcoming bureaucratic barriers, the first tender with real competition was held. As a result, the state saved \$ 5 million on only "Trastuzumab". And now the Nativita's «T-mab» has fallen in price so much that it is below the retail price in Russian pharmacies. This is logical - wholesale prices should be significantly lower than retail prices, the wholesaler will still be able to earn money, since buying tens of thousands, the wholesaler receives a large discount from the manufacturer.

Cheaper than the original, but many times more expensive than other generics

Why the prices were too high for so many years, the representatives of «Nativita» explained as follows:

THE ANSWER OF JLLC « NATIVITA»: When "NatiVita" first entered the market of the Republic of Belarus with biological drugs and competed with the originator, as a result, prices for "Rituximab" and "Trastuzumab" fell - by one and a half times and almost twice, respectively.»

But this is manipulation. Before the appearance of «Nativita», Belarusian hospitals bought the original "Trastuzumab". And it supplied the generic. Original medicines are always more expensive than generic drugs, but not by one and a half or two times, but, in the case of Trastuzumab, by ten times. Why didn't the Ministry of Health respond to this? Here is the answer given by the then Deputy Minister of Health Dmitry Pinevich, who now heads the structure:

Reaction of the Ministry of Health

«We conducted a journalistic investigation about the procurement of cancer drugs. Are you aware that "Nativita" supplies you with 7 times more expensive medicines?» - «Where's the exit? Where's the exit, young man?!»

Pinevich closed the door. Then we finally managed to talk to him. He said he didn't know anything about the situation. He promised to investigate and answer us in written form. We have not received a written response. A year ago, Pinevich signed the GMP certificate, which is issued only after a detailed study of the production process, which means that he should have known that "Trastuzumab" is not produced at the factory.

				ii
Трастузумаб	пор-к для инфузий лиоф. (лиофилизат) 150 мг - 1.600 флаконов + пор-к для инфузий лиоф. (лиофилизат). в к-те с р- лем 440 мг - 8.880 флаконов или р-р для п/к введения 600мг - 8.880 флаконов	8 880	8 880	T-Маб лиофилизат для приготовления концентрата для приготовления раствора для инфузий 440мг во флаконах в комплекте с растворителем 20мл во флаконах в упаковке №1

Нативита СООО, РБ		БИОКАД ЗАО, РФ упаковано Нативита СООО, РБ	684,78	BYN
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Limited improvements

Now "Nativita" continues to supply "Trastuzumab" to the Ministry of Health, which is true, finally for an adequate price. But the elimination of the suspicious scheme is out of the question.

Back in 1993, Alexey Sychev founded the company «Vitvar», which preceded «Nativita». Now the company is owned by Sychev's wife and his son.

More than once, having in fact one owner, «Vitvar», as well as «Akonitfarma», participated with «Nativita» in tenders.

So, on 24.10.2018, as indicated in the winners' report, the above-mentioned companies take part in the procurement. "Nativita" wins by a margin of 500 rubles».

Already this year, Vitvar supplied the budget with the iron solution twice as expensive as a similar dose costs in Russia during public procurement. The overpayment is more than a quarter of a million rubles.



Сведения о собственнике имущес	тва (учредителях, участниках)***
Физически	е лица****
1	-
Фамилия, собственное имя, отчество (если таковое	Головкина Светлана Геннадьевна (Республика
имеется) (страна гражданства)	Беларусь)
Дата включения в ЕГР	10.03.2014
Размер доли (в процентном соотношении или в виде	58.3%, 0.07 (денежный), Белорусский рубль (BYN)
дроби) и вклада (с указанием вида вклада) в уставном	
фонде, вид валюты	
2	
Фамилия, собственное имя, отчество (если таковое	Сычёв Владимир Алексеевич (Республика Беларусь)
имеется) (страна гражданства)	
Дата включения в ЕГР	04.03.2020
Размер доли (в процентном соотношении или в виде	41.7%, 0.05 (денежный), Белорусский рубль (BYN)
дроби) и вклада (с указанием вида вклада) в уставном	
фонде, вид валюты	

Last year, the budget purchased medicines from Vitvar for skin cancer, «Zelboraf», one and a half times more expensive than this medicine costs in Russia. The amount of the overpayment is more than one million rubles.

ПОСТАВЩИКИ по	результатам процеду	р закупо	к лекарст	венных средств по п	лану 2020г. (на 01.	12.2020)
	Срок оплаты - от даты п	риемки тов	ара по кол	ичеству и качеству, если	и иное не указано в таб	блице
	Срок поставки - от даты	подписани	и специфи	кации, если иное не указ	ано в таблице	
Международное непатентованное наименование	Дозировка, форма выпуска	Кол-во к закупке (фл. табл. капс.)	в т.ч. за счёт M3 (план)	Торговое название	Фирма-поставщик	Юридический а поставщика
7 💌	8 💌	9 👻	10 🔻	11 💌	12 💌	13
Железа карбоксимальтозат	р-р для инъекций в/в 50мг/мл 2мл	13 580	0	Феринжект раствор для внутривенного введения 50 ыг/ыл во флаконах 2 ыл в упаковке №1	ВитВар ООО, РБ	210023, г.Витебск, г Фрунзе, 26, корп.3

1.	12.2020)											
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•••••	Юридический адрес поставщика		Производитель		Фасовка №	ол-во у		Цена за ут (CIP)		Цена отпуски		Валюта цены
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	210023, г.Витебск, пр-т Фрунзе, 26, корп.3		IDT Biologika GmbH, Германия/ Valida, Швейцария/ Vifor (International) Inc., Швейцария		1	13 580	0			<mark>36,</mark> 59)	BYN

Информация об объекте закупки

мнн 🍞	ЛЕК. ФОРМА, ДОЗИРОВКА И ЕД. ИЗМЕРЕНИЯ	количество	ЦЕНА ЗА ЕД., ₽	СТОИМОСТЬ, ₽
> ЖЕЛЕЗА КАРБОКСИМАЛЬТОЗАТ	РАСТВОР ДЛЯ ВНУТРИВЕННОГО ВВЕДЕНИЯ, 50 мг/мл, см[3*];^мл (мл)	9 550,00	459,80	4 391 090,00

How high do suspicious connections lead

Our sources told us that Alexey Sychev's connections go all the way up to the former long-term health minister Vasily Zharko. According to a number of experts, Vasily Zharko continues to influence personnel appointments, and therefore decisions in his former department, even after his resignation.

In order to check the rumors about Zharko's connections with Sychev, we studied all aspects of their activities. Our attention was attracted by a report in «Nasha Niva» that Vasily Zharko finished building the family cottage and at the same time gave his daughter Olga a luxury apartment.

Looking through the real estate transactions of that period, we came across another one that caught our attention.

Nemiga 42, an apartment of 86 meters, which previously belonged to Vasily Zharko and his daughter Olga. And in the autumn of 2018, the apartment goes as a gift to Fedor Sychev - the son of the owner of «Nativita», «Vitvar» and "Akonitfarma".



Vasily Zharko

We can't yet say that this deal had anything to do with the other real estate shuffles in the Zharko family at the time. Or that all this had something in common with the case of the doctors, which then flared up and in which Alexey Sychev appeared in the status of a suspect. Vasily Zharko was also invited to talk with the investigators. The only thing that we can say with certainty at the moment is that the family of the minister, who overpaid millions of dollars from the budget in favor of the entrepreneur, has private ties with the family of this entrepreneur. NAVINY publications.by and «Nasha Niva», tracking the career of Vasily Zharko, conclude that he could be a protégé of Lyudmila Postoyalko - the grandmother of Nikolai Lukashenko.

	Страница 1
	ИСТР НЕДВИЖИМОГО ИМУЩЕСТВА,
ЕДИНЫИ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫИ ГЕГР	и СДЕЛОК С НИМ
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Республиканское унитарное предприя	ятие "Минское городское агентство по
государственной регистрац	ции и земельному кадастру" аксима Богдановича, 153
220040 г. Минск, ул. Ма	ксима Богоановича, 155
Сведения об изолированном помещении или	машино-месте
Инвентарный номер: 500/D-704935	
Адрес: г. Минск, ул. Немига, 42-84	
Общая площадь (кв.м): 86.0	
Назначение: Квартира	
Наименование: Квартира № 84	
Число комнат в изолированном помещении: 3	
Дата государственной регистрации создания: 1	1.09.2006
Дата государственной регистрации последнего	изменения: нет
Право собственности	
(Собственность одного лица)	
Илентификационные свеления о правообладате	еле: Сычёв Фёдор Алексеевич, дата рождения
11 11 1998 идентификационный номер 3111198	8Е001РВ7, гражданство - Республика Беларусь,
г. Минск, ул. Немига, 42-84	
Доля: 1/1	
Лата государственной регистрации: 12.09.2018	11:47:00
Основание государственной регистрации: Догов	вор дарения (Антонова Оксана Аркадьевна,
нотариус Минского городского нотариального	округа) от 29.08.2018 №4-950
Актуальные отметки	
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Сператор	(инициалы, Фамилия)
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Who has their money taken away to overpay selected businessmen

Spinal muscular atrophy is a sore issue for 152 patients with this genetic disease in the country and for their loved ones. Now 86 children and 66 adults live in waiting.

There are medicines, but they are not available in Belarus. The disease slowly kills a person. The patient

stops moving, all functions are gradually excluded, including respiratory. The volunteer Dmitry Letyagin told about it:

«SMA, type one: when a child is born, it has a genetic disease that almost does not develop. In fact, the life expectancy is up to two years with the first type of SMA. SMA of the second type manifests itself later, then the development of the child stops at 3-4 years, 5 years. More common are the third and fourth types of SMA, this is an adult who gets sick: at first moves with difficulty, then sits in a wheelchair, then goes to bed and does not move.»

Maxim Semashko lives in Lyuban, this year he turned 18 years old. The fact that he lived to such an age with his illness is a miracle. The guy emphasizes that today high-tech medicines will no longer help him, but in an effort to fight for children with SMA, he turned not only to the Ministry of Health, but also to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

«As a result, Makei wrote that we wrote a statement to these dudes in the Ministry of Health, only from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus. Previously, the position of the Ministry of Health was that there is no money. Karanik was there. He was asked: what to do with the SMA? Everywhere medicines are taken, even in Russia, as according to the documents it must be used. But there they have another issue: there is no money.»

Medicines that stop the development of spinal muscular atrophy are not available in Belarus, but in Poland they can be obtained free of charge because of medical insurance, even for foreigners. Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, even Russia - these countries also have treatment programs for SMA, Maxim says:

«Spinraza» and «Zolgensma». «Zolgensma» is a medication that is used to inject children up to 2 years old. One injection costs \$ 2.5 million. And it completely stops the progress of the disease. And the person gradually becomes healthy. But this can only be before turning two years old. Then Spinraza.

The answer of the Ministry of Health: the Belarusian budget does not provide funds for citizens with SMA – do massages.

One injection of "Spinraza" costs about \in 70,000. In the first year of therapy, the patient needs six injections, which cost \notin 420 thousand. For all 152 Belarusians with the SMA, almost \notin 64 million is needed for the first year of treatment. This is about 2.5 % of the annual budget for health care. In the future, the amount will be reduced by almost half, because after six injections, the patient needs three injections a year – one every four months.

Thus, the money that the Belarusian authorities overpaid to Alexey Sychev's companies would have been enough to save the lives of dozens of children with the described syndrome. Meanwhile, Alexey Sychev is not the only participant in such schemes. Another feature of the domestic medicine market is that medicines are often very expensive not only for the budget, but also for ordinary citizens.

1 ІН'ЄКЦЫЯ = 70.000 еўра 6 УКОЛАЎ НА ПЕРШЫ ГОД = 420.000 еўра 152 БЕЛАРУСАЎ = 64 000 000 ЕЎРА КАЛЯ 2,5 % АД ГАДАВОГА БЮДЖЭТУ На ахову здароўя

How the authorities increase prices by pretending to lower them

Importers are required to sell their medical supplies to pharmacies at very low prices. So low that it is not profitable for them. As a result, only domestic medical supplies remain on the shelves, some of which are not domestic at all. This is confirmed to us by an employee of the state pharmacy:

«There are a lot of cases when they are packaged and demonstrated as Belarusian. Sometimes they write the main manufacturer on the packaging, but in our program it goes like a Belarusian medical supply, because it is packaged in our country.»

Questions about budget allocation and the provision with even simpler medicines arose before the pandemic and the political crisis, the pharmacist says:

«Foreign drugs are constantly disappearing in pharmacies. According to the decree, the Ministry of Health sets the lowest selling price for medicine, mainly foreign ones. Sometimes it sets a bar and drug suppliers simply refuse to work. In my experience, there were cases when imported goods disappeared and domestic ones appeared»»

In 2019, there was a scandal: consumers noticed that the «Phenybutum» of the Belarusian manufacturer in Smolensk was 5 times cheaper than in Minsk. 2 rubles in Russia against almost 9 rubles in Belarus. The Ministry of Health began monitoring and noticed significant price excesses in pharmacies - compared to neighboring countries. A year later, we compared the prices for the same items to find out how the monitoring of the Ministry of Health worked.

«Osteogenon», which is prescribed to pregnant women, today costs from 40 rubles, in Russia the average price is 25 rubles, in Poland 20 rubles. The "Mirena" contraceptive in Belarus can be purchased for 499 rubles, in Poland and Russia - for 330 rubles, in Ukraine-for 185 rubles. French medicines for epilepsy «Depakine Chrono» in domestic pharmacies-from 30 rubles, in Russia the price is 9 rubles. Medicine curing melanoma «Zelboraf» in our pharmacies is sold for 7950 rubles. In Russia - just over 1,500 rubles.

The problem is in the system itself, procurement specialist Victoria Alexandrova says:

System problems

«The state does not have an aim to buy more medical supplies for the same amount. This aim is not facing either the ministry or the industry. It has the task of providing patients with medicines. Simply provide medicines - this task they perform, and provide quality medicines for a minimum cost - this task they do not have. Therefore, in principle, they cope with their tasks, « Victoria Alexandrova believes.

At the same time, the players of our pharmaceutical market focus on an alternative in the form of domestic generics, and most Belarusian medicines cost less than a dollar. However, as the employee of the state pharmacy says, there are also circumstances:

«The generic may differ from the original in certain indicators, and when we take a Belarusian medical supply and compare it with a generic, it may differ from the generic in a certain amount. And it turns out that the gap with the original is already impressive. I often observe that Belarusian glaucoma medical supplies are not suitable for people, and people are prescribed foreign Belgian drugs. In 3 out of 10 cases, Belgian medicines are prescribed»»

АСТЭА	ГЕНОН
Беларусь	40 рублёў
Расея	25 рублёў
Польшча	20 рублёў

1.1		
/MI	РЭНА	
Беларусь	499 рублёў	
Расея	330 рублёў	1
Польшча	330 рублёў	1
V VV.		1

According to the law, pharmacies must sell at least 50 % of domestic medicines, says the pharmacist of the state pharmacy:

«We even have indicators that affect the work benefits. When they calculate our salary, they compare the indicators of last month with the current one and this month with the current month of last year, and look at the percentage growth in the sale of Belarusian medicines.»

Thus, despite the political and financial crisis, it seems that the authorities continue to cover up schemes with signs of corruption, which involve dealers associated with the country's top officials. With the money overpaid through these schemes, the state could purchase medicines that would save many lives. But this is impossible because of clannishness, protected by perhaps the most opaque public procurement system in Europe.