

WEEKLY REPORT

09/23/2023



PUBLIC HEARING MAY DISCUSS THE MEDICINE PRICE REGULATION MODEL IN BRAZIL

The Consumer Protection Committee (CDC) of the House of Representatives approved on Wednesday (20), the request 61/2023, proposed by Congressman Aureo Ribeiro (Solidariedade-RJ). The objective is to hold a public hearing to discuss the regulation model of drug prices in Brazil. The debate will have the participation of Daniela Marreco Cerqueira, executive secretary of the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED); Interfarma; Brazilian Association of Pharmacy and Drugstore Chains (Abrafarma); Brazilian Association of Health Insurance Plans (Abramge) and others. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSMAN PRESENTS A SUGGESTION FOR CHANGES ON THE REGULATION OF MEDICINE PRICES IN THE COUNTRY

Congressman Aureo Ribeiro (Solidariedade-RJ) presented Indication 1278/2023, suggesting that the Ministry of Health, together with the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), carry out a study and discussion about the medicine price regulation model in the country. According to the parliamentarian, the need for this discussion arises from publicly available information released by UOL in September 2023, which criticizes the discounts offered by pharmacies when purchasing medicines and the way in which the CMED table is readjusted, which lists all medicines sold in Brazil with their cost and sales prices. The article also states that there is evidence that 'both the CMED table and full pharmacy prices, without discounts, are completely disconnected from market reality'. The Board of Directors will forward the nomination to the Ministry of Health, by means of an official letter. [Read more.](#)

SENATOR PROPOSES DEBATE ABOUT BILL THAT CREATES THE NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY IN THE SUS

Senator Dr. Hiran Gonçalves (PP-RR) presented request 106/2023 to the Social Affairs Committee (CAS) of the Federal Senate, this Thursday (21), proposing the holding of a public hearing to instruct the Bill 2952/2022. Senator Dr. Hiran is the rapporteur of the bill, which intends to establish the National Policy for Cancer Prevention and Control in the Unified Health System (SUS). The list of guests who will debate the proposal will be defined later. The request will be put to a vote by the members of the Social Affairs Committee (CAS) of the Federal Senate next week. [Read more.](#)

ANS DEBATES CHANGES TO THE ANALYSIS OF CONITEC RECOMMENDATION

The National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) held, this Wednesday (20), the 6th administrative meeting. The main discussion was about the change in the analysis of recommendations from the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies in the Unified Health System (CONITEC) and others matters. Ana Cristina Marques Cristina, General Manager of Assistance Regulation of the Directorate of Standards and Product Qualification of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), informed that it is possible to improve the conclusion of Conitec's opinions, and wants to count on the support of the Permanent Committee of Health Care Regulation (COSAÚDE), as it is time to review and adjust the Critical Analysis Report (RAC) model, as procedures need to be improved. [Read more.](#)

WITH INCREASING LAWSUITS AGAINST HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS, STATE COURT IN SÃO PAULO WILL HAVE A CONCILIATION CENTER BETWEEN COMPANIES AND CUSTOMERS

Due to the growing number of lawsuits against health insurance plans, the São Paulo Court of Justice (TJ-SP) is preparing to launch an initiative to encourage conciliation between operators and customers, especially in demands whose processes have not yet been filed, reported Estado de S. Paulo. According to data from the TJ-SP, in the first five months of this year alone, 8,440 actions were filed against health plans in the São Paulo Courts, an average of one case every 25 minutes. The number is 14% higher than that recorded between January and May of last year. Demands against supplementary health companies already represent 18% of all consumer relations processes in São Paulo. TJ-SP also draws attention to the high rate of cases in which operators are unsuccessful (92%). For judge Maria Lúcia Pizzotti, coordinator of the court's Mediation Center (Nupemec), even with convictions, consumers have to wait a long time for decisions to be complied with. Furthermore, the high number of cases represents a high cost for both parties and for the judicial system itself. That's why, she defends conflict mediation as a way to shorten the path and time in the search for a solution. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT DELAYS POST-STROKE TREATMENT, AND 73 THOUSAND ARE LEFT WITHOUT ASSISTANCE IN THE SUS

Ercília de Lima, 41, moved the doctors at Hospital das Clínicas, in São Paulo, when she left the ICU after a stroke (Cerebral Vascular Accident) that left her 'close of death'. She was saved by a mechanical thrombectomy, a technique that reduces the sequelae of ischemic stroke, the main cause of motor disability in the world, by almost three times. Approved by the SUS in 2021, the technique has not yet been incorporated by the government, leaving around 73 thousand patients without treatment since then, highlighted a report from the UOL portal. [Read more.](#)

OZONE THERAPY: GOVERNMENT DENIES ACCESS TO THE OPINION THAT SUPPORTED THE SANCTION OF THE LAW CRITICIZED BY EXPERTS

The federal government keeps confidential the opinion of the Attorney General's Office (AGU) that supported the sanction of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to the law that allows the practice of ozone therapy in the country, signed on August 4 against the wishes of the Ministry of Health and medical entities, reported the newspaper O Globo. The Instituto Questão de Ciência (IQC) requested documents analyzing the constitutionality and legality of the law from the Civil House, through the Access to Information Law (LAI). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL RESUMES BIOPHARMACEUTICALS AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

The Minister of Health, Nisia Teixeira, said that Brazil is resuming a cooperation agreement on biopharmaceuticals with the Cuban government, which had been interrupted during the government of former president Jair Bolsonaro, reported Valor Econômico. "We are resuming the binational committee in the field of science, technology and innovation in health with the Cuban Ministry of Health to jointly develop products and innovations in the fields of vaccines, medicines also for chronic diseases, such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, new medicines for gastritis from innovations", said the minister, in a press conference with other ministers from the government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, this Friday (15). [Read more.](#)

CREATION OF THE NOVEMBRINHO AZUL CAMPAIGN GOES TO SANCTION

This Tuesday (19), the project that creates the Novembrinho Azul health campaign, to be carried out every year in the month of November, was approved by the Senate, reported Agência Senado. The intention of PL 3930/2021 is to promote actions aimed at protecting and promoting the health of boys up to 15 years of age. The text, already approved by the Chamber, goes to presidential sanction. The project, by federal deputy Dr. Zacharias Calil (União-GO), was rapporteur by senator Dr. Hiran (PP-RR), also a doctor. Among the actions foreseen in the text are the distribution of educational material on pain and testicular enlargement, and the promotion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. [Read more.](#)

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TURNS 50 AMID CHALLENGES

Controlling cases of measles, tuberculosis, tetanus and polio and reducing child deaths in the country was the main reason for the creation, in 1973, of the National Immunization Program (PNI), which turns 50 this Monday, the 18th, highlighted O Globo newspaper. In 1940, the mortality rate of Brazilians up to 5 years of age reached 212 per thousand. Ten years after the creation of the PNI, infant mortality was already 50% lower. In these five decades of operation, the program has accumulated achievements such as the eradication of human smallpox, rubella and polio, but has faced challenges with the rise of anti-vaccine movements. The success of the PNI is internationally recognized, having led to experts from the country being invited to contribute to vaccination campaigns in other countries. [Read more](#).

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

[Subcommittee on Rare Diseases may carry out technical visits to reference centers in São Paulo](#)

[Congresswoman suggests that the Ministry of Health discuss the inclusion of rare diseases in the periodic update of the International Classification of Diseases](#)

[Public hearing held on Digital Transformation in Health and Electronic Medical Records](#)

[Appointed Plenary rapporteur of the project that requires the publication of the list of patients who will undergo elective surgeries in the SUS](#)

POLITICAL NEWS

[Aide says Bolsonaro floated Brazil coup idea after election: reports](#)

[Lula's speech at UN calls for focus on climate, end to inequality](#)

[Biden, Brazil's Lula focus on dangers to democracy, aim to advance workers' rights](#)

[Analysis: Lula struggles to revive Brazil's 'soft power' amid US-China tensions](#)

[Brazil to revise climate targets to cut emissions 53% by 2030 -sources](#)

[Brazil raises 2023 GDP growth outlook as activity strengthens](#)