

WEEKLY REPORT

11/04/2023



BRAZIL ONCE PIONEERED GENERIC DRUGS, AND THEN CAME A PATENT WAR

Faded posters marking pivotal moments in HIV history adorn the walls of Veriano Terto Jr.'s office. One announces Brazil's first meeting of homosexuals in April 1980. In another, for World AIDS Day in 1988, Portuguese words wrapped around a globe demand an end to discrimination. Brazil was once at the forefront of a global movement to provide HIV treatment for everyone who needed it, in rich and poor countries alike. The South American nation led the charge by making and importing lower-cost generic drugs, distributed for free through its national health-care system. Death rates from AIDS in Brazil plummeted by half, and hospitalizations dropped about 70%, from 1996 to 2002. "Brazil succeeded as a kind of model for the world for AIDS treatment," says Terto, vice president of the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA), an advocacy group in Rio de Janeiro. "I started my treatment with Brazilian generics in 1997," he says, "and because of them, I am alive." But times have changed. Terto, 62, now gets his HIV pills on the black market through an acquaintance in Florida, because Brazil's health system has yet to distribute his better, but pricier, brand-name medicine. New drugs have become expensive in Brazil and other middle-income countries where pharmaceutical companies stave off competition from generic manufacturers by fiercely defending their intellectual property. Without a license, makers of generics can't sell more affordable versions of patented drugs. "There was a high-water mark for access to medicines at the height of attention to HIV in the early 2000s, when basically every new HIV drug came with licenses," says Matthew Kavanagh, a global health policy researcher at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. "But that has waned, and the prices have gone up." [Read more.](#)

CONGRESS IS LIT UP IN BLUE AS A WARNING TO PREVENT PROSTATE CANCER

The National Congress receives blue lighting, from the 1st to the 14th of November, in support of Blue November, a month of awareness about men's health, especially the prevention and early diagnosis of prostate cancer. According to the Ministry of Health, prostate cancer is the most common among men and accounts for 28.6% of deaths from malignant neoplasms in males. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL WILL REGISTER MORE THAN 70,000 CASES OF PROSTATE CANCER A YEAR

The National Cancer Institute (INCA) released the estimate of new cases of prostate cancer for the 2023/2025 triennium: 71,740 new cases each year in Brazil, behind only the non-melanoma skin cancer. An increase of 8.5% compared to the previous estimate, which was 65,840 cases, highlighted an article in *Veja Magazine*. In terms of region, the prevalence of prostate cancer presents the following scenario: Southeast region (77.89/100 thousand); Northeast (73.28/100 thousand); Midwest (61.60/100 thousand); South (57.23/100 thousand); and North (28.40/100 thousand), in descending order. [Read more.](#)

ANS REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING PROSTATE CANCER

The National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) supports the Blue November campaign and warns about the importance of early diagnosis of prostate cancer. And it takes the opportunity to reinforce the procedures included in the List of Procedures and Events in

Health and which allow everything from the detection of this type of cancer to the early treatment of identified cases, such as: blood test to quantify the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), biopsies, ultrasounds, surgeries and reparative procedures for rehabilitation. Furthermore, treatment with some antineoplastic chemotherapy drugs is also guaranteed by the regulator. [Read more.](#)

ANS RECEIVES CONTRIBUTIONS ABOUT INCLUSION OF PHARMA INDUSTRY IN THE HEALTH CHAMBER OF SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH (CAMSS)

ANS receives contributions on the regulations of the Supplementary Health Chamber of Supplementary Health (CAMSS), with the inclusion of a representative from the pharmaceutical industry segment in its composition, reported on the agency's portal. The Supplementary Health Chamber is a body of institutionalized participation of society in the ANS, of a permanent and consultative nature, which assists the Collegiate Board in its discussions. It is responsible, among other functions, for monitoring the development of policies within the scope of supplementary health; discuss, analyze and suggest measures that can improve relations between the different segments that make up the sector and contribute to the discussions and results of committees and technical chambers. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSWOMAN REQUESTS URGENCY TO VOTE BILL THAT REQUIRES COMPANIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS FOR HPV AND BREAST, CERVICAL AND PROSTATE CANCER

In a session of the Plenary of the House of Representatives held this Monday (30), parliamentarians approved the request that guarantees urgency on the Bill 4968/2020, which intends to oblige companies to make information about official campaigns of vaccination, human papillomavirus (HPV) and breast, cervical and prostate cancer. The rapporteur, Congresswoman Soraya Santos (PL-RJ), will be the rapporteur in the Plenary. [Read more.](#)

SENATOR IS FAVORABLE ON APPROVAL BILL TO CREATE THE NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY IN THE SUS

Senator Dr. Hiran Gonçalves (PP-RR) presented a favorable opinion to Bill 2952/2022, which establishes the National Cancer Prevention and Control Policy within the scope of the Unified Health System (SUS), in the Social Affairs Committee (CAS) of the Federal Senate. [Read more.](#)

DEBATERS DEFEND MORE FUNDS FOR ACTIONS TO COMBAT BREAST CANCER

Debaters stated this Tuesday (31), in a public hearing in the Chamber of Deputies, that there is a lack of public resources to put into practice the laws that guarantee rights to cancer prevention and treatment breast cancer, the most common type among Brazilian women. One of the representatives of the Ministry of Health in the debate, Patrícia Freire, admitted problems, but said that increasing funds requires the effort of all administrative spheres. She also stated that the current Budget was prepared by the Bolsonaro administration. [Read more.](#)

STUDY SHOWS THAT POORER CITIES RECEIVE LESS RESOURCES FROM PARLIAMENTARY AMENDMENTS FOR HEALTH

Parliamentary amendments for Health fail to prioritize the poorest municipalities and with worse primary care indicators. The conclusion is from an unprecedented study by Gife (Group of Institutes, Foundations and Companies), reported Folha de S.Paulo newspaper. Based on these conclusions, the survey proposes an index to direct amendments to the cities that need those most. When questioned, the Ministry of Health said that 'the prerogative to indicate the places where the amendments will be sent belongs to parliamentarians. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE TO BE INCLUDED IN BRAZILIAN IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

As of 2024, the COVID-19 vaccine will become an integral part of the Brazilian National Immunization Program (PNI). This decision aligns with the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation to administer an annual dose of the vaccine. "During the pandemic, a separate program was established to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine outside of our national program. This year, we are integrating this vaccine into the National Immunization Program," explained Ethel Maciel, the Secretary for Health and Environmental Surveillance at the Ministry of Health. [Read more.](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

[Ministry of Health provides information on the deadlines for the incorporation of new technologies in the SUS](#)

[In a public hearing, participants debate access to digital diagnostic tools](#)

[Public hearing held on the creation of assisted therapy centers in the SUS](#)

[Anvisa cancels registration of the drug Adakveo](#)

[Brazil child cancer deaths linked to soy farming, study finds](#)

[Favorable opinion presented to the bill that creates the National Oncology Patient Day](#)

[Favorable opinion presented to the bill about National Biosimilar Medicines Day](#)

POLITICAL NEWS

[Brazil's Workers Party slams Israel for holding Brazilians in Gaza](#)

[Government expects Brazilians to leave Gaza "soon"](#)

[Around 60 thousand Palestinian refugees and descendants live in Brazil](#)

[Brazil criticizes UN Security Council impasse: "We failed"](#)

[Brazil cenbank cuts rates, with more likely to come, but flags 'adverse' backdrop](#)

[Brazil creates more formal jobs than expected in September](#)

[Lula militarizes Brazil's main ports, airports amid rising crime](#)

[Former President Bolsonaro banned from running for office again](#)

[Erratic weather threatens Brazil's run at another record soy crop](#)