

# WEEKLY REPORT

11/11/2023



## **DEBATERS DISAGREE ON ROUTINE EXAMS TO DETECT PROSTATE CANCER**

The Special Committee to Combat Cancer of the House of Representatives held a public hearing on Wednesday (8) to examine the prevention of prostate cancer and the use of robotic surgery in its treatment. The event was led by Congressman Weliton Prado (Solidariedade-MG). The representative of the Instituto Lado a Lado pela Vida at the hearing, Denise Blaques, regretted that the Ministry of Health had recently published a technical note opposing the early diagnosis of prostate cancer. The advisor to the Ministry of Health's national cancer prevention and control policy, Suyanne Monteiro, advocated that men adopt a healthier lifestyle and reiterated the position against prostate cancer screening. [Read more.](#)

## **PHARMA INDUSTRY PRESSURES ANS TO FACILITATE PLAN COVERAGE OF HIGH-COST MEDICINES**

In dispute with health plans, large pharmaceutical companies want the ANS (National Supplementary Health Agency) to modify the rules that imposed another step on the coverage of high-cost drugs, reported Folha de S.Paulo newspaper. In a letter, the pharma industry requests the agency to change the rules, reducing the steps for products classified as 'advanced therapy' to be covered by plans. They ask for review through debates and public consultations. To date, there are only five records in this category. Among them are products for rare diseases or oncology treatment lines manufactured by Novartis, Janssen and Gilead. One of them is Zolgensma, from Novartis, used to treat children up to six months old diagnosed with SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) type 1. When contacted, FenaSaúde, which represents health plan operators, declined to comment. In September, the entity said, in a statement, that it saw scientific rigor in the new rules established by the ANS for the coverage of advanced therapy treatments. In a note, Abramge (Brazilian Association of Health Plans) said it is available to participate in 'technical debates and regulatory impact analyses'. ANS states that the new rule guarantees consumer safety. 'It should be noted that this group of therapies received a special classification from Anvisa, through the creation of a specific category, which is why the ANS collegiate board decided, in September, that it was necessary to protect the consumer, by making the study essential of therapies through ATS (Health Technology Assessment)', the Agency said, in a note. [Read more.](#)

## **CONGRESSMAN PEDRO WESTPHALEN IS APPOINTED RAPPORTEUR OF THE BILL ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS**

Congressman Pedro Westphalen (PP-RS) was officially designated the Plenary rapporteur to issue an opinion on Bill 7082/2017, which provides for clinical research with human beings and establishes the National System of Ethics in Clinical Research with Human Beings. The matter is on the agenda of the deliberative session this Wednesday (08). [Read more.](#)

## **NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL CRITICIZES CLINICAL TRIALS BILL**

The National Health Council held the 348 Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday (08) and Thursday (09). One of the points discussed during the meeting was the Clinical Trials Bill (Bill 7082/2017). Laís Alves Bonilha, coordinator of the National Research Ethics Commission (Conep), argued that Conep is a consolidated system, which promotes cohesion and consistency for the

analysis of ethics and research in the country, generating a positive culture for the research sector. Finally, the coordinator cited the efficiency of Conep, which generates research protocols in half the expected time in 60% of cases, contradicting the arguments of Bill 7082/2017. Patrícia de Campos Couto, technical analyst of social policies at DECIT, criticized the Bill proposal to generate new independent committees, and defended the current harmonious system with Conep as an inductor and regulator over the 878 existing ethics committees. She argues the recognition of illegality of Bill 7082/2017, as according to her it violates the constitutional principle of separation of powers, where it is up to the Executive Branch to regulate and organize administrative functioning. [Read more.](#)

### **SENATE'S COMMITTEE PASSES BILL TO CREATE POLICY CANCER POLICY FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE SUS**

The Senate's Social Affairs Committee (CAS) approved the Bill 2952/2022 which aims to create a policy for Cancer Prevention and Control in the Unified Health System (SUS). The text provides for the purchase of medicines centrally by the Ministry of Health, reported the Jota website. However, the version presented by the rapporteur, Senator Dr. Hiran (PP-RR), last week, establishes that this type of acquisition is a priority for cancers with a higher incidence and with highly complex treatment, in addition to incorporations with a high financial impact for the SUS. The Bill now needs to be analyzed by the floor of the Federal Senate. [Read more.](#)

### **NOVO NORDISK WILL BUILD US\$6 BILLION FACTORY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF ANTI-OBESITY MEDICINE**

Novo Nordisk to build US\$ 6 billion factory to increase production of anti-obesity drug a weight loss market that is expected to reach US\$100 billion by 2030, highlighted an article by Valor Econômico. Work on a new 170,000-square-meter factory will begin this year within the company's facilities in Kalundborg, Denmark, according to a statement released on Friday. Part of the investment is included in the 25 billion kroner capital expenditure that the company has already announced for this year; the rest will come over the next six years. Novo said the factory will produce medicines for its serious chronic diseases' portfolio, which includes weight loss and diabetes treatments such as Wegovy and Ozempic, which have thrust it into the spotlight and made it Europe's most valuable company. [Read more.](#)

### **RAIA DROGASIL'S NEEDS REACHES RS\$1BN TURNOVER**

At Raia Drogasil, the pharmacy chain's strategy is not limited to the expansion of units, but also to the independence of its main private brand. Needs—which covers a category of 50 products including skin care, diapers, and first aid—accounts for nearly R\$1 billion in sales (last 12 months to October) and will have "its own voice," said Renata Mascarenhas, the executive in charge of private labels at RD. [Read more.](#)

### **EXELTIS FOCUSES ON WOMEN'S HEALTH TO GROW IN BRAZIL**

Exeltis, the pharmaceutical arm of Spanish group Insud Pharma, chose to focus on women's health to gain ground in the Brazilian market. In Brazil for 10 years, the company is still considered small, with estimated revenues of R\$200 million for 2023. Its sales, however, are growing at a fast pace, over 30% yearly in a market expected to grow by around 10% this year. The aim is to achieve revenues of R\$500 million in three years, with the launch of innovative products and a portfolio suited to meet Brazilian women needs. A key strength of the Spanish pharmaceutical company, which also operates in cardiology and other therapeutic classes outside Brazil, is not following a standardized, one-size-fits-all portfolio. Instead, as Exeltis Brasil's CEO, Isaac Jarlicht, notes, the company has sought to listen to doctors and

patients to investigate the demands of women in the different countries where it operates and adapt its formulations as needed. [Read more.](#)

### **FIRST VACCINE AGAINST CHIKUNGUNYA IS APPROVED BY THE USA; IN BRAZIL, BUTANTAN MUST REQUEST APPROVAL FROM ANVISA IN 2024**

The first vaccine against chikungunya was approved by the North American regulatory agency Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this Friday (10), reported the G1 portal. The single-dose vaccine will be marketed as Ixchiq and is recommended for people aged 18 or over who live in regions exposed to the virus - as is the case in Brazil. It contains a live, weakened version of the chikungunya virus. The approved vaccine is from the Vanlneva group, a vaccine producer in Austria. In Brazil, the Butantan Institute has a partnership with the producer. When contacted by the publication, Butantan informed that it must submit a request for approval to Anvisa in the first half of 2024. [Read more.](#)

### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH RECEIVES MORE THAN A THOUSAND REQUESTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UBSS WITH NEW PAC**

The Ministry of Health has already received around 1,400 proposals from health managers interested in building new UBSSs (Basic Health Units) in their municipalities through resources from the New PAC (Growth Acceleration Program), reported Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. The department's expectation is to make 1,800 new health posts viable with the R\$4.2 billion that will be made available for the project. The idea is that all new units will be larger and have more rooms and offices to serve patients. The scope also provides for ecologically sustainable UBSSs equipped with internet to carry out teleconsultations. Through the New PAC, the Ministry of Health still wants to expand its operations in the areas of family health and oral health and invest in multidisciplinary teams, in order to expand the coverage of primary care in the SUS (Unified Health System). [Read more.](#)

#### **MORE HIGHLIGHTS**

[Congressman proposes public hearing on bill about composition of Conitec](#)

[Study highlights the urgency of health policies for rare diseases in the SUS](#)

[Committee approves obligation for hospitals to guide parents about testing](#)

[Ministry of Health provides information on the actions for people with rare diseases](#)

[Urgency is requested on the bill that includes information on rare diseases in demographic censuses](#)

[Bill that provides for exemption from bidding in the acquisition of medicines for cancer and rare diseases can be voted by Committee](#)

[Ministry of Health opens public consultation on the use of open data in the SUS](#)

[Health Committee debates practical experiences with digital tools](#)

[Health Committee debates the Innovation of Logistics Processes in Telemedicine and Telehealth](#)

[In the House of Representatives, director of PAHO highlights the importance of countries prioritizing preparation for future pandemics based on equity](#)

[Brazil extends avian flu health emergency for 180 days - ministry](#)

## **BRAZIL NEWS**

[Senate approves tax reform in historic session](#)

[Chamber of Deputies mulls over changes in tax reform](#)

[Policymakers forecast further cuts of 50 bp in key rate](#)

[Chief of Staff Office considers setting fiscal target at 0.5% of GDP](#)

[Congressional leaders defend government's zero-deficit target](#)

[Inflation rises 0.24% in October, 4.82% in 12 months](#)

[Gerdau reduces dividends, criticizes imports of Chinese steel](#)

[Brazil's agricultural production has low level of subsidies, OECD says](#)

[EU anti-deforestation law could affect 20% of Amazon soy](#)

[Brazil says EU deforestation rules hamper Mercosur trade deal negotiation](#)

[Trapped Brazilians, source of tensions with Israel, still stuck in Gaza](#)

[Brazil-Israel ties strained as Mossad trumpets Hezbollah bust](#)



**CONSULTORES**  
Relações Governamentais