

WEEKLY REPORT

11/18/2023



MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL EARN R\$5 BILLION MORE THIS YEAR

The government will increase the budget foreseen for the Ministry of Health this year by around R\$5 billion, due to the sanction of the law which, among other points, established that the resource floor rule for the area should be calculated in 2023 based on the revenue contained in the Annual Budget Law (LOA), and not the net current revenue for the financial year. The forecast should be included in the next revenue and expense assessment report, to be released next week, Valor Econômico found. The sanctioned law allows the transfer of R\$27 billion to the States and the Federal District to compensate for revenue losses due to changes in the Tax on Circulation of Goods and Services (ICMS) rate. However, in the same text, deputy Zeca Dirceu, leader of the Workers' Party (PT) in the Chamber, inserted a device establishing a change in the calculation of the health floor specifically for 2023, given the discussion about the full return of the floor this year or only in 2024. The device was approved by Congress and sanctioned by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. With this, the government will have to make around R\$5 billion available for Health. The additional contribution could reach close to R\$20 billion, if the floor were once again calculated by net current revenue for the financial year, as established by the Constitution. It was a middle-of-the-road solution, taken by President Lula, given the political sensitivity of the issue, a source said. Despite the decision to increase the Health budget by around R\$5 billion this year, the amount will not force the government to increase the resource contingency of other ministries, a government technician explained to the publication. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH RETURNS TO REIMBURSE STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE JUDICIALIZATION OF DRUGS

With the publication of Ordinance GM/MS No. 1,805 in the Official Gazette of the Union on Friday (10), the Ministry of Health resumes transfers from the National Health Fund (FNS) for state, municipal or district funds when it is necessary to reimburse for the judicialized purchase, between 2017 and 2022, of medicines that should have been financed and acquired by the Union. The initiative is an important advance in rebuilding the interfederative relationship and strengthening the tripartite management of the SUS, reported the ministry's portal. This procedure had been suspended since 2017. Requests not met for five years, until 2022, are included in the document's annex, indicating the amounts that must be transferred to the entities and the respective budgetary action. Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Espírito Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Ceará and Pernambuco have resources to receive. [Read more.](#)

INCORPORATED INTO THE SUS 5 YEARS AGO, THERAPY FOR SEVERE EPILEPSY IS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS

Five years after its incorporation into the SUS (Unified Health System) by Conitec, electrical stimulation therapy of the vagus nerve (VNS) remains unavailable to patients with severe epilepsy who do not respond to existing medications or surgery, highlighted a report from Folha de S. Paulo. In September 2018, the Committee, responsible for defining the list of treatments in the SUS, approved VNS for adults or children with epilepsy refractory, focal or generalized, to at least two regimens of anticonvulsant medications, that is, those in which

traditional treatments for epilepsy are not effective. In general, after incorporation, the Ministry of Health has 180 days to make the new therapy available after publication in the DOU (Official Gazette of the Union). However, more than 1,800 days later, patients and families continue to struggle to access treatment in the public service. [Read more.](#)

USE OF THE DENGUE VACCINE APPROVED BY ANVISA IN THE SUS WOULD HAVE A 'VERY HIGH BUDGETARY IMPACT', SAYS MINISTRY

The Qdenga dengue vaccine is considered expensive and very restricted in application by the Ministry of Health, reported the G1 portal. The incorporation of the immunizer into the Unified Health System (SUS) would have an impact of around R\$9 billion in five years, considering the age groups of 4 and 55 years proposed by the pharmaceutical company Takeda Pharma. Currently, the vaccine from the Japanese laboratory is only available on the private network. The vaccine was approved in March by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa). The ministry asked the manufacturer for more information about the proposed price per dose, in addition to the vaccination production capacity. Conitec also makes two more reservations: the vaccine is not indicated for the population most vulnerable to serious cases and deaths from dengue (children under 4 years of age and elderly people over 60 years of age); the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the Qdenga vaccine for the public between 6 and 16 years old, which is also not included in the proposal sent by Takeda to Conitec. [Read more.](#)

EUROFARMA ADVANCES WITH MEDICINE OUTSOURCING

Eurofarma's recently created medicine outsourcing division already has the capacity to produce more than 400 million units per year. The business unit has been gaining relevance in the internationalization agenda of the Brazilian pharmaceutical industry, being seen by senior management as a profitable area with broad profitability potential. The main focus is on Latin America, where the pharmaceutical company has factories in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Guatemala. These complexes are added to the three plants based in municipalities in São Paulo, in the capital, in Itapevi and Ribeirão Preto. [Read more.](#)

DE-ACCREDITATION OF FARMÁCIA POPULAR GROWS FIVE TIMES IN 2023

The de-accreditation of Farmácia Popular is the newest problem in pharmaceutical retail. After years without the entry of new pharmacies, now the sector sees drugstores giving up on the program, reported the Panorama Farmacêutico. Compared to 2022, the number of deaccredited POSs grew by 500% in 2023. This year alone, 135 stores left Farmácia Popular, compared to just 21 last year. The stampede is the result of a more intense audit of pharmacies accredited to the program after fraud came to light. In a scenario where the disqualification of Farmácia Popular is high, the consumer is left with their hands tied, since adherence to the program also leaves something to be desired. With high bureaucratic requirements and accreditation blocked without transparent criteria, the program only completed 3% of registrations and discourages new sign-ups. The federal government opened 1,622 vacancies for interested pharmacies in June, two for each of the 811 municipalities included in this first stage. Only 51 establishments had joined the project until September 11th. [Read more.](#)

DEBATERS SAY BRAZIL NEEDS TO INVEST IN GENETIC COUNSELING

Brazil should invest more in screening mutations for recessive diseases in couples of reproductive age, aiming to prevent the birth of new ones affected by untreatable diseases or those that cost millions, such as spinal amyotrophy (SMA), hemophilia and sickle cell anemia. This was one of the consensuses of the public hearing of the Subcommittee on the Rights of People with Rare Diseases — subcommittee of the Social Affairs Commission —, held this

Tuesday (14). The meeting was led by the president of the subcommittee, senator Mara Gabrilli (PSD-SP), who asked geneticists Mayana Zatz and Maria Rita Passos-Bueno, from the Biosciences Institute of the University of São Paulo (USP), to assist her office with the suggestion of budget amendments aimed at increasing this research in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

BILL INTENDS NEW LAW FOR PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH RARE DISEASES

Representative Renata Abreu (PODE-SP) sponsored Bill 5508/2023, which proposes to establish the Law for the Protection of People with Rare Diseases. The Bill aims to ensure and promote, under equal conditions, the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms by people with rare diseases, aiming at their health, social inclusion, and citizenship. The PL also addresses the main concerns of people with rare diseases, including: the difficulty of diagnosis and access to treatments and rehabilitation therapies; the lack of information from health professionals; and issues related to genetic diseases, which are the majority (about 80%) of rare diseases. [Read more.](#)

BILL AIMS TO ESTABLISH FREE AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Representative Rosângela Reis (PL-MG) presented Bill 5514/2023, which proposes establishing free and universal access to immunotherapy for cancer patients and provides other measures. The Bill proposes that free and universal access to immunotherapy be guaranteed to all patients diagnosed with cancer, as per medical indication. Treatment would be guaranteed through the Unified Health System (SUS), and must be available in public, partner, or private health establishments, duly qualified to provide this type of care. [Read more.](#)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

[Scheduled technical visit to Novartis headquarters and Jô Clemente Institute headquarters](#)

[Ministry of Health provides information on the publication of Clinical Protocols and Therapeutic Guidelines \(PCDT\)](#)

[Diabetes is responsible for more than 28 amputations per day in Brazil](#)

[Sales of medical cannabis in pharmacies grow 122%](#)

[Bill intends to establish rules for the cultivation of cannabis, cannabis-based medicines for human and veterinary uses](#)

BRAZIL NEWS

[Lula asks Petrobras to tweak investment plan for more Brazil jobs, sources say](#)

[Brazil cenbank chief says external scenario has not affected FX, balance of risks](#)

[Brazil to maintain target of zero fiscal deficit in 2024](#)

[Argentina needs president who backs democracy, Mercosur -Brazil's Lula](#)

[Brazil's Lula welcomes citizens rescued from Gaza, condemns 'inhumane violence'](#)