

# WEEKLY REPORT

12/16/2023



## **BRAZIL PASSES LONG-AWAITED TAX REFORM**

Lawmakers in Brazil have voted to overhaul the nation's byzantine tax system, which has frequently been cited as a barrier to doing business in Latin America's largest economy. After years of planning and delays, the lower house of Congress on Friday backed the landmark constitutional amendment that will simplify a host of levies on goods and services. The legislation will replace five separate consumption taxes with a dual VAT system — one charged by federal authorities, and the other at a regional level. It will be phased in over eight years starting in 2026. Some industries will have 60% discount on the new tax, including the health sector. [Read more.](#)

## **PUBLIC HEARING DEBATES THE MODEL FOR REGULATING MEDICINE PRICES IN BRAZIL**

This Wednesday (13), a public hearing was held at the Consumer Protection Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the model for regulating medicine prices in Brazil. The debate was requested by congressman Aureo Ribeiro (Solidariedade-RJ). Congresswoman Gisela Simona (União-MT) said that regulation is important and fundamental, however, it is inserted in a methodology that is outdated and distorts reality. She also highlighted the importance of understanding how the discount policy presented to medicines through the CPF is carried out. Representative Celso Russomanno (Republicanos-SP) discussed that in some cases, when requesting the laboratory invoice, a 1000% overpricing is found. He also mentioned that doctors receive a 50% discount on the price being charged in drugstores. Russomanno defined that the Government is very far from the price charged by the pharma industry. At the end of his speech, he highlighted the need to initiate inspection and control over Anvisa, so that it can check the processes between pharma industries and drugstores, so the consumer can buy medicine at a fair price. Russomanno informed that he will request the creation of a working group with an agreement between Procon of São Paulo and others who want to join, together with CMED, to carry out a price survey to assist in the actions of the regulatory chamber of drug pricing in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS IT REPUDIATES THE CONDUCT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AFTER REPORT ON MONITORING OF MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS**

The Ministry of Health issued a note criticizing the pharmaceutical industry after the UOL website revealed that pharmaceutical companies have been monitoring the medical prescriptions of millions of Brazilians to improve their marketing results. The Ministry of Health stated that it repudiates the conduct of the pharmaceutical industry revealed by the report. The Lula government ministry said that all incoming complaints are analyzed and forwarded to the responsible bodies. The note also says that the ministry is aware of all the responsibilities of the General Data Protection Law (LGPD). It is worth noting that all records of complaints and communications of irregularities received via official Federal Government channels are verified and forwarded to appropriate action by the competent bodies. The Ministry of Health reinforces its commitment to individual rights and the General Personal Data Protection Law (LGPD). The Department is closely monitoring developments in the aforementioned allegations. The UOL revealed a scheme that involves drugstores and

pharmaceutical companies. Clerks serve as 'informants', and data from doctors and patients is collected to serve in the industry's medical marketing campaigns. This is a multimillion-dollar data capture scheme, which starts at the drugstore counter and goes to two specialized companies. The records are then sold to drug manufacturers. In one year, at least 250 million prescriptions are processed. [Read more.](#)

## **PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN THE HEALTH INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, SAYS EXECUTIVE**

"Johnson & Johnson is turning 90 in Brazil, and what we have done over these years are relevant dialogues and conversations with the health sector so that we can support the development of our country", said the president of Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine Brasil, Amanda Spina, during the CB Forum Economic-Industrial Health Complex, of Correio Braziliense, held this Wednesday (13/12 ). In view of efforts to strengthen the Brazilian health sector, the Partnerships for Productive Development (PDP) act to expand access to medicines and health products considered strategic for the Unified Health System (SUS), in addition to strengthening the country's economic-industrial complex, highlighted the newspaper's article. "Today we have two PDPs that are in the development phase here in Brazil, together with two large partners, forming a tripartite partnership with Bionovis and Bio Manguinhos-Fiocruz", emphasizes Spina. The collaboration between the three large pharmaceutical companies generated results such as the transfer of technology from Johnson & Johnson to Brazil, in order to produce the drug Infliximab, used to treat rheumatic and autoimmune diseases. "The nationalization of pharmaceutical inputs is a great achievement in advancing these PDPs implemented here", comments the president. In addition to sharing new technologies for the manufacture of medicines, the partnership between Johnson & Johnson, Bionovis and Bio Manguinhos-Fiocruz enabled the distribution of the drug Golimumab, indicated for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis, to the SUS. [Read more.](#)

## **APPROVED BILL THAT PROVIDES FOR THE INCORPORATION AND ACQUISITION OF ONCOLOGY TREATMENTS IN THE SUS**

The Health Committee of the House of Representatives approved, this Wednesday (13), the Bill 3070/2021, which amends Law No. 12,732, of November 22, 2012, which provides for the first treatment of patients with malignant neoplasia, to provide for the incorporation and acquisition of oncological treatments in the Unified Health System. Sponsored by representative Dr. Frederico (Patriota-MG), the objective of the article is to ensure that oncological treatments that receive a favorable incorporation recommendation from Conitec are effectively available to SUS patients. The proposition defines that the incorporation, exclusion or alteration by the SUS of malignant neoplasm treatments are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, advised by Conitec. [Read more.](#)

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMPOSITION OF CONITEC**

The Health Committee of the House of Representatives approved, this Wednesday (13), the Bill 1241/2023, by deputy Rosângela Moro (União-SP), which amends Law No. 12,401, of April 28, 2011, including a representative of a Civil Society Organization in the composition of the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies into the Unified Health System – CONITEC. [Read more.](#)

## **PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY CALCULATES R\$ 17.8 BILLION IN REQUESTS STOPPED AT ANVISA**

Association that brings together 12 large companies in the Brazilian pharmaceutical industry, such as EMS, Aché and Bionovis, the FarmaBrasil Group calculated the potential value of medicines awaiting registration with Anvisa is 17.8 billion reais, highlighted an article in the magazine *Veja*. According to the publication, the entity defends the importance of the National Health Surveillance Agency for the design and implementation of the pharmaceutical development and innovation ecosystem in the country and has pleaded with the Lula government to increase the number of vacancies offered in the public competition that will be held for the body — there will be 50 and FarmaBrasil proposes 129. The group estimates that, without the entry of any new process, Anvisa would take 2.1 to 2.4 years to complete all those that have already been filed, with the current strength of work. The association's multibillion-dollar calculation refers to the so-called "queue value" — petitions waiting in the queue and those with analysis already started. This is the potential values if the product were on the market in 2022, considering data from the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber on volume sold and average unit value for each category. [Read more](#).

### **ANVISA PUBLISHES PANEL WITH INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICATION REGISTRATION QUEUES**

Anvisa published a panel that offers interested parties the possibility of carrying out research on ongoing drug registration processes, the agency's portal reported. According to the publication, this allows us to know the order of analysis, as well as the deadline estimates for each amendment subject. The search can be conducted in several ways, including searching for the subject of the addition petition, responsible area and registration queues. It is possible to specify the process number, the area of the addition, the category, the status of the addition and whether the process is prioritized. [Read more](#).

### **INFLATION OF MEDICINES WORRIES 30% OF BRAZILIANS, SAYS RESEARCH**

Concern about inflation on medicines and other health expenses was what grew the most among families in one year, according to Radar Febraban, impacting 30% of Brazilians – a higher rate than the 22% recorded in December 2022, highlighted an article in the magazine *Veja*. Seniors aged 60 and over are those most impacted by rising prices. "In the 12-month period, from December 2022 to the current month, inflation on medicines and health expenses jumped from 22% to 30%, tying for second place with "fuel prices". And it reaches 37% in the age group of 60 years and over", highlights sociologist and political scientist Antonio Lavareda, president of the IPESPE Scientific Council. Despite the concern of Brazilian families, the latest survey carried out by Precifica, a company specialized in pricing solutions, shows that the IPM-COM (Medicine Price Index in e-Commerce) showed a drop of 1.94% in October, in comparison with the same period in 2022. [Read more](#).

### **IN LIVE WITH LULA, NÍSIA SEES DELIBERATE ACTION AGAINST VACCINES AND CRITICIZES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, said this Tuesday (12) that she sees a 'strategy deliberate' against vaccination in the country, reported *Valor Econômico*. And she criticized the Chamber's Financial Oversight and Control Committee for promoting 'lives' with doctors who question the effectiveness of immunizers 'without scientific basis'. Nísia made the statements during the program *Conversa com o Presidente*, the weekly live broadcast of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in which she participates as a guest. Nísia was at the end of November at the Chamber's Financial Inspection and Control Committee, where she was confronted by Bolsonaro deputies with an anti-vaccine stance. Among them, deputy Bia Kicis (PL-DF), who criticized the inclusion of covid vaccines for children in the National Immunization Plan (PNI) and deputy Eduardo Bolsonaro (PL-SP), son of former president Jair Bolsonaro, who went so far as to say that there is a 'worldwide epidemic' of sudden death

after vaccination against the coronavirus. Questioned by Lula, Nísia says that she has been notifying the Attorney General's Office (AGU) and the Comptroller General of the Union (CGU) about the lives promoted by the collegiate with anti-vaccine doctors. And she said she hopes that the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) takes action against these professionals. According to her, these are attitudes 'that completely violate medical ethics'. [Read more](#).

### **MINISTER OF HEALTH TALKS ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF THE SUS**

The 35 years of the Unified Health System (SUS) and the challenges of implementing regionalization in a country continental were themes of the main conference given by the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, on the morning of this Monday (11), at the II National Conference on Health Care Planning, informed the website of Conass. Making reference to the 8th National Health Conference, a historic milestone in the thinking that permeated the Health Reform in Brazil, the minister noted that there is a lot of capillarity in the SUS, even though there are problems, and stated that Regionalization is a fundamental agenda for the department. For the minister, the debate on Primary Health Care (PHC), proposed at the Conference, also needs to provide reflection on its renewal with the vision of comprehensiveness, access to new technologies, strong integration of data systems and sustainable and equitable use of technologies such as information and communication. With the message that there needs to be a quality SUS for everyone, Nísia cited seven challenges that mark the contemporary world and which are the target of actions by the Ministry of Health: the aging of the Brazilian population, climate change, work relations, access to science and new technologies, social inequalities, communication and the threat to democracy. [Read more](#).

### **GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ADVANCES IN PALLIATIVE CARE FOR PATIENTS TREATED BY THE SUS**

In a debate in the House of Representatives plenary, the general coordinator of home care at the Ministry of Health, Mariana Borges Dias, announced the advancement of palliative care for the sick population within the scope of the Unified Health System (SUS), highlighted an article by Agência Câmara. She stressed that the new national policy on the subject was created with the participation of civil society, with the support of the Parliamentary Front in Defense of Palliative Care, and has already been approved by the National Health Council. "The objective is to change the culture of 203 million of Brazilians and provide palliative care for everyone, with very good expectations. A new era of palliative care is beginning that will take Brazil out of those very uncomfortable positions of being one of the worst places to die", stated Mariana Borges Dias. Since 2018, a resolution from the Ministry of Health (Resolution 41/18) sets guidelines to guarantee palliative care for SUS patients, from the diagnosis of the disease to the terminal phase. The Plenary session to discuss this palliative care in the public health system was chaired by deputy Luisa Canziani (PSD-PR), author of a project (PL 2460/22) that establishes the National Palliative Care Program. [Read more](#).

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

[Health Committee approves the final report of the Subcommittee on Rare Diseases](#)

[Approved the final report of the Special Subcommittee to discuss Telemedicine, Telehealth and Digital Health](#)

[Public hearing debates on Hemp and national autonomy in the production of cannabinoids](#)

## **BRAZIL NEWS**

[Fitch affirms Brazil's rating, calls Lula's government pragmatic](#)

[Brazil's Congress blocks Lula's veto on extended payroll tax exemption](#)

[Brazil central bank cuts rates by 50 bps, signals same beyond January](#)

[Brazil Senate passes sports betting regulations](#)

[Brazil Congress overturns Lula veto on limit to Indigenous land claims](#)

[Brazil wants G20 to boost resources for environmental protection](#)

[COP28: Norway gives \\$50 mln to Brazil Amazon fund as deforestation falls](#)

[Brazil Senate approves Lula's justice minister for Supreme Court seat](#)

[Brazil to resume import taxes on solar panels, wind turbines](#)

[Airlines urge Brazil, Petrobras to lower jet fuel prices](#)



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