

WEEKLY REPORT

02/03/2024



PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SECTOR NOT EXPECTED TO RECOVER UNTIL 2025

The private healthcare market should see a stronger recover only from 2025 onwards. The segment's performance for this year is expected to remain weak, as in 2023, with companies awaiting further cuts in interest rates to reduce their debt, especially hospitals and laboratories, according to industry experts interviewed by Valor. Health insurance providers are expected to maintain an average 25% increase in prices for a good part of the year to return to black. Market projections indicate that the employment rate will fall this year compared to 2023, which directly impacts the number of people with health insurance. Until September, health insurance companies traded nearly R\$235 billion—amount that funds the segment, since 95% of medical procedures are conducted through health insurance. [Read more.](#)

EXPECTATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CARE ARE MORE OPTIMISTIC

Expectations for public healthcare are more optimistic. This is because the budget for the Unified Health System rose 30%, to R\$ 218.5 billion this year - the SUS table is now updated annually, and the federal government resumed the Health Industrial Complex Program, which provides for investments of R\$42 billion by 2026 for the national production of basic medical supplies. "The program is already a government priority; it has a budget. There is a lack of execution, but this is an election year, which can help projects get off the ground. The sea is favorable", said Lígia Bahia, professor associated with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Lawyer Camila Parise, partner at Pinheiro Neto, also highlighted the relevance of resuming the program, created in 2014, to boost local industry. The health industrial economic complex, which is part of the federal government's program to increase the productivity of Brazilian industry, aims to increase the share of production in the country to 70% of national demands for medicines, vaccines, equipment and medical devices. [Read more.](#)

WITH THE NEW ICMS, THE PRICE OF MEDICINES IS AT RISK OF RISING IN 11 STATES

The price of medicines is expected to increase between 1% and 2% in 2024 due to the adjustment of the Tax on the Circulation of Goods and Services (ICMS), which will be adhered to by 11 Brazilian states, reported the newspaper Metrópolis. Although medicines already have a fixed annual adjustment, this year this value should be even higher in 11 Brazilian states. For the second year in a row, the tax will increase in Bahia, Maranhão, Paraná and Tocantins. The correction will also come into force in Ceará, the Federal District, Goiás, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro and Rondônia. The Brazilian tax burden on medicines is six times higher than the world average, according to the Brazilian Association of Pharmacy and Drugstore Chains (Abrafarma). The justification for the tax adjustment is the drop in revenue, since, according to the National Committee of Secretaries of Finance, Finance, Revenue or Taxation of the States and the Federal District (Comsefaz), around R\$109 billion was lost due to changes in tax collection. [Read more.](#)

MEDSUS APPLICATION IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE POPULATION

The MedSUS application, providing information on all medicines available in the pharmaceutical assistance of the Unified Health System (SUS), can now be downloaded by the population via

digital distribution platforms for IOS or Android. Originally launched in 2014, the app had not been updated for four years and was aimed only at students, researchers and health professionals. In addition to being available to citizens, MedSUS will also help reduce the judicialization of medicines. By integrating diverse audiences, the Ministry of Health aims to create a collaborative and transparent environment, promoting efficiency in public health management. One of the main features of the application is to provide detailed information about available medicines, aligned, when necessary, with the Clinical Protocols and Therapeutic Guidelines (PCDT) and the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). In practice, both citizens and healthcare professionals can access up-to-date information about which medications are recommended for certain medical conditions, contributing to more informed decision-making. [Read more.](#)

CONITEC DEBATES IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

The National Committee for the Incorporation of Technologies into the Unified Health System (Conitec) began the 2024 agenda with an administrative meeting between members of the Executive Secretariat and representatives of the Medicines, Products and Procedures and Clinical Protocols and Therapeutic Guidelines Committees. The meeting was held this Tuesday (31) at the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in Brasília (DF), the commission's website reported. On that occasion, the team welcomed the members and opened space for suggestions for improvements in the health technology assessment process conducted by the Commission. Topics related to Conitec's flow, evaluation of studies, receipt of external and internal demands and analyzes of the work that has been carried out, also compared to previous years, were covered. Greater assertiveness in relation to public consultation reports and data review, in support of the Health Technology Assessment Centers (NATS), were also topics that appeared on the agenda. Furthermore, the management of the Department of Management of Incorporation of Health Technologies (DGITS), which is responsible for the Executive Secretariat of Conitec, presented the actions on monitoring the technologies incorporated into the SUS. [Read more.](#)

CNS AND NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMISSION GO TO THE SENATE TO BLOCK THE PL ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS

The National Health Council (CNS) and Conep (National Research Ethics Commission) are intensifying actions to promote information to society and block the PL 6007/2023 (former PL 7082/17), which proposes significant changes in clinical trials with human beings, in the production of new medicines, procedures and technologies in healthcare. The biggest risk of the project, according to these organizations, is that of removing control and social participation from the decision on the ethical issues involved in clinical trials. Currently, the regulation and monitoring of research with human beings, which guarantee the rights and dignity of research participants, is carried out by a large system that comprises around 900 Research Ethics Committees (CEP) and the National Ethics Commission in Research (the so-called CEP/Conep System). Representatives of Conep, one of the CNS commissions, are proposing that the Senate convene new public hearings to debate the project and its important consequences for the Brazilian people. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT SPENT MORE THAN THE CONSTITUTIONAL MINIMUM ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN 2023, SAYS TREASURY

The federal government spent more than the constitutional minimum in the areas of health and education in 2023. The information is in the Union's Budget Execution Summary Report (RREO) for last year, released this Tuesday (30) by the National Treasury. According to Valor Econômico, education expenses reached R\$100.8 billion last year, equivalent to 151.9% of the constitutional minimum. In 2022, spending totaled R\$84 billion, in nominal values. In the case

of health, expenses reached R\$179.8 billion, the equivalent of 121.6% of the constitutional limit, above the R\$151.9 billion spent in 2022. The RREO also showed that the Social Security deficit was R\$428 .8 billion in 2023. The General Social Security Regime (RGPS) presented a deficit of R\$315.7 billion in the year, a variation of + 16.8% in relation to the same period of the previous year (R\$270.2 billion). The Public Servants' Pension Regime (RPPS) presented a negative result of R\$54.8 billion, a variation of +8.3% (R\$50.6 billion). [Read more.](#)

JUDGES WILL HAVE A FREE COURSE ON SUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH

The increased demand for the Judiciary to resolve issues related to the supply of medicines led Sindusfarma, in partnership with Mackenzie University, to set up a course on the topic aimed at judges. With 60 hours duration and online classes, the course will feature experts such as the former Minister of Health and president of EBSEPH, Arthur Chioro; the public health doctor and former president of Anvisa, Gonzalo Vecina; in addition to law professors. Retired Supreme Court minister Ellen Gracie is also expected to participate in the opening of the course, which will be divided into four modules. Sindusfarma consultant, Fábio Moreira told Jota that the construction of the course was conducted over the last two years. "We think about topics that are considered essential for professionals: they range from how the SUS works and financing to artificial intelligence and health," he said. "The idea is to bring a systemic view to this professional so that he can make a more assertive decision in relation to a specific situation, but also so that he understands the impact of this decision in general", he added. Moreira cited data from the National Council of Justice to show the increase in judicialization. According to the entity, in 2023 there were 200 thousand new actions linked to the public health sector. This significant increase, he stated, has an impact on the country's health system, both public and private. The consultant emphasizes that most of the requests made in court reflect unmet rights and, therefore, are indispensable. Whatever the case, there is a tendency for the judge, when deciding, to only analyze the specific case, without evaluating the system. The course, which began on March 5, was also prepared with the help of the Brazilian Medical Association. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT UNVEILS NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE POLICY

Brazil's National Health Council has approved the creation of the National Palliative Care Policy—PNCP in the original Portuguese acronym—in the country's public health system, SUS. Defined by the World Health Organization as a "human right and moral imperative of all health systems," palliative care is the set of essential services that "improve the lives of patients and their families who face the challenges associated with life-threatening illness and serious health-related suffering including, but not limited to, end-of-life care." With the move, the government hopes to bring services in line with international guidelines, which recommend providing one home care team and one hospital care team for every 100 thousand people. According to the Ministry of Health, in order to implement the structure, BRL 851 million will be invested in a number of efforts every year, including the training 1,300 teams for the prevention and alleviation of patient suffering. [Read more.](#)

DENGUE VACCINE OFFERS HOPE, BUT IS NOT A SOLUTION, SAYS MINISTER

The Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, stated on Wednesday (Jan. 31) in Brasília that the dengue vaccine offers hope amidst the surge in cases of the disease in the country. However, she emphasized that it is not the sole solution to the current epidemiological situation due to the limited quantity of the vaccine provided by the manufacturing laboratory. Approximately six million doses are available, sufficient to vaccinate three million people, considering that the complete vaccination schedule consists of two doses. [Read more.](#)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

[Parliamentary Front will hold a meeting in honor of World Rare Disease Day](#)

[Ministry of Health provides information on partnerships with Civil Registry Offices to register people with rare diseases, cancers and chronic diseases](#)

[Government distributes new drug for HIV patients](#)

[Brazil unveils emergency center to tackle dengue epidemic](#)

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[Brazil intelligence agency's second-in-command fired in illegal spying probe](#)

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