

WEEKLY REPORT

02/10/2024



CONGRESSMAN SPONSORS BILL TO ESTABLISH DEADLINE FOR STARTING PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT

Congressman Fábio Teruel (MDB-SP) sponsored Bill 202/2024, which proposes changes to the Law that established the National Prostate Cancer Control Program, to guarantee, through the Unified Health System, an adequate period for the initiation of prostate cancer treatment. The PL intends to oblige the SUS to carry out tests for the early detection of prostate cancer, within a period of up to 30 days, whenever, at medical discretion, such a procedure is considered necessary. The article also suggests the same deadline for the patient to undergo the first treatment, counting from the day the diagnosis is confirmed in the pathological report. Furthermore, it establishes administrative penalties for cases of non-compliance with the standard. [Read more.](#)

AFTER 25 YEARS OF THE LAW, 37% OF BRAZILIAN MEDICINES ARE GENERIC

After 25 years of regulation, the generic medicine industry is responsible for at least 37% of the entire pharmaceutical market in Brazil, highlighted an article on the Jota website. With annual revenue of almost R\$20 billion, generics are the most sold medicines in Brazil, ahead of similar and new medicines. Enacted on February 10, 1999, Law 9,787 was the main regulatory framework for the generic medicines policy. According to data from the Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), in 2022, more than 2 billion packages of generic medicines were produced. The legislation served to expand access to pharmacological treatment, with cheaper medicines. Today, the average price of a generic is R\$8.50. In comparison, similar drugs have an average price of R\$15.03 while new medicines reach R\$45.62. [Read more.](#)

90% OF BRAZILIANS SAY THAT NATIONAL PRODUCTION OF MEDICINES SHOULD INCREASE

According to Veja magazine, research carried out by IQVIA Consumer Health and commissioned by Nortec Química, the largest manufacturer of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (IFAS) in Latin America, concluded around 90% of Brazilians consider it important to increase the production of medicines on national territory. "Prioritizing Brazilian production also means investing in stock security, accessibility in the Public Health System (SUS), distribution, price stability and reducing dependence on foreign products", says Marcelo Mansur, CEO of Nortec Química, to VEJA. For him, a policy of leveraging national industry combines economic well-being with social well-being. The price, however, remains a factor of concern. On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being very cheap and 10 being very expensive, more than 30% of people rated the drugs as having very high prices. The biggest vote was concentrated on note 10, with 33.3%. Then, 10.9% gave a score of 9 and 16.1% voted an 8. [Read more.](#)

ARTHUR LIRA REQUESTS INFORMATION FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ABOUT PAYMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET

The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), presented a request (RIC 86/2024), which has already been sent by official letter to the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, to question the transfer of resources to States and municipalities. In the request, he received support from six parties, five of them from the allied base, Valor Econômico reported. Amid

clashes with the government over the budget, which led to a public demand in the opening session of the Legislative year, Lira questions the criteria adopted to release the resources, "what are the parameters used to set the ceiling for Parliamentary Amendments" and "what criteria are used and respective per capita values for transfer". The government and Congress are also fighting to see who will decide on the use of R\$5.6 billion from the budget. The government vetoed this amount being allocated as a result of political indication from congressmen through "commission amendments". The request was filed on Tuesday (6). The Ministry of Health is supposed to answer until March 8. [Read more.](#)

DENGUE SPREADS FAST IN BRAZIL PROMPTING EMERGENCY HEALTH MEASURES

Dengue fever has surged in Brazil's hot rainy season, forcing health authorities to take emergency measures and start mass vaccination against the mosquito-borne illness. In the first five weeks of this year 364,855 cases of infection have been reported, the Health Ministry said, four times more than dengue cases in the same period of 2023. The rapid spread of dengue has caused 40 confirmed deaths, the ministry said, and a further 265 are being investigated. Brazil has bought 5.2 million doses of the dengue vaccine Qdenga developed by Japanese drugmaker Takeda's (4502.T), opens new tab, with another 1.32 million doses provided at no cost to the government, a ministry statement said. Three Brazilian states have declared emergencies, including the second most populous state Minas Gerais, and the Federal District, where the capital Brasilia is located and is facing an unprecedented rise in infections. [Read more.](#)

LULA AND TEDROS ADHANOM DISCUSS PRODUCTION OF DENGUE VACCINE

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom discussed partnerships for disease elimination in a meeting on Monday (Feb. 5) at the Planalto presidential palace in Brasília. They also addressed the Brazilian vaccine production against dengue and the Brazilian temporary presidency of the G20, which has established a health working group. Minister of Health Nísia Trindade participated in the meeting. According to the Planalto palace, Adhanom suggested that Brazil could be a supplier of the dengue vaccine through the Butantan Institute and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). Currently, the only vaccine against dengue available free of charge in Brazil's public healthcare network, the SUS, is Qdenga, produced by the Japanese laboratory Takeda. Adhanom also stated that the WHO intends to support Brazil in eliminating diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy, Chagas disease, and diseases transmitted from mother to child, such as HIV. These are examples of socially determined diseases. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO TACKLE 14 DISEASES THAT AFFECT SOCIALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The Brazilian government intends to eliminate or mitigate 14 diseases and infections that most intensely affect people facing greater social vulnerability. These are known as socially determined diseases. The decree establishing the Brasil Saudável ("Healthy Brazil") program was signed by President Lula and Health Minister Nísia Trindade. Official data show that socially determined diseases were responsible for the deaths of more than 59 thousand people in Brazil from 2017 to 2021. The diseases targeted for elimination include malaria, Chagas disease, and schistosomiasis, as well as vertically transmitted infections such as syphilis, hepatitis B, and HIV. [Read more.](#)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

[Health makes an emergency international purchase of chickenpox vaccine, which is in short supply in the country](#)

[Projects that aim to reduce taxes on medicines to zero will be analyzed together](#)

[Requests presented to hold a Solemn Session in Commemoration of World Rare Disease Day](#)

[Senate Education Committee debates creation of Fabry Disease Awareness Day](#)

[Bill aims to define prioritization of processes involving neonatal screening](#)

[Congresswoman suggests to the Executive Branch the resumption of the work of the Interministerial Committee on Rare Diseases](#)

[Representative suggests to the Ministry of Health the expansion of reference services in rare diseases](#)

[Bill includes pediatric oncology in the academic curriculum of Medical and Nursing](#)

BRAZIL NEWS

[Police investigates Bolsonaro, military over alleged coup attempt](#)

[Federal Police: Bolsonaro discussed, altered draft outlining coup](#)

[Bolsonaro, military agents under investigation for attempted coup](#)

[Top court orders Bolsonaro to hand over passport](#)

[Brazil estimates GDP growth over 2%, inflation to converge to 3% this year, Lula says](#)

[Brazil prioritizes streamlining access to green funds in G20 presidency](#)

[EU: conditions to complete Mercosur trade deal not met yet](#)

[Shrinking Brazilian soy harvest balanced by creep-up of prior crop](#)

[Brazil renewable energy to get bigger subsidy on 2024 electric bills -regulator](#)

[Brazil's hydro power adds to global gas surplus](#)