

# WEEKLY REPORT

03/02/2024



## **COMMITTEE PASSES BILL ABOUT TREATMENT FOR CLIMACTERIC WOMEN**

In a deliberative meeting of the Human Rights and Participatory Legislation Commission (CDH) of the Federal Senate held this Wednesday (28), parliamentarians approved Bill 3933/2023, which obliges the Unified Health System to provide treatment of menopause and climacteric by the Unified Health System and establishes the National Awareness Week for women in menopause or in climacteric. The bill was sponsored by Senator Mecias de Jesus (Republicanos-RR) and had as rapporteur Senator Ivete da Silveira (MDB-SC). The approved text guarantees menopause women access to hormonal and non-hormonal medications, the diagnostic tests, the training of doctors for the diagnosis and treatment of menopause and climacteric, specialized psychological and multidisciplinary support from diagnosis. In addition, the bill creates National Awareness Week for Women in Menopause and Menopause, to be celebrated annually in March. [Read more.](#)

## **BILL ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS WILL BE ANALYZED BY THREE COMMITTEES IN THE FEDERAL SENATE**

The Federal Senate decided Bill 6007/2023, about clinical trials with human beings in Brazil, for analysis by the Constitution, Justice and Citizenship Commissions (CCJ); Science, Technology, Innovation and IT (CCT); and Social Affairs (CAS). The proposal was authored by former senators Ana Amélia, Waldemir Moka and Walter Pinheiro. Approved in 2017 by the Senate, the project was analyzed by deputies, who presented a new text to replace that of the senators, with more articles and definitions linked to the research. Now, the replacement will now be analyzed by the Senate. [Read more.](#)

## **CELL THERAPY CONSOLIDATES AGAINST CANCER**

High-level genetic engineering conducted in research institutions in the country is pointing to a promising path to combating some types of cancer. After advancing in other countries in the last decade, since 2022 a specific type of cell therapy has also been showing very promising results in Brazil, bringing joy to patients and doctors, despite all the setbacks that an innovative treatment can still suffer over time. The novelty of CAR-T cell therapy comes from patients' own T-lymphocytes, cells found in the human immune system. Starting in March, with approval from the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), 81 patients will be followed in a new clinical trial with innovative cell therapy, promoted by the Fundação Hemocentro de Ribeirão Preto (Fundherp) in partnership with the Butantan Institute. [Read more.](#)

## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH, STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES LAUNCH REVIEW OF NEONATAL SCREENING**

The Ministry of Health, the states and municipalities agreed to restructure the National Neonatal Screening Program (PNTN) at the meeting of the Tripartite Intermanagers Commission (CIT) this Thursday (29/2). There will be collaboration between states to analyze the heel prick test. The logistics of transporting the samples must occur through a partnership with the Post Office. Each region of Brazil will have at least one laboratory from the National Network of Specialized Neonatal Screening Laboratories (LETN). Check the breakdown by regions: North: Amazonas should concentrate Acre, Rondônia and Roraima while Pará receives from Amapá and Tocantins;

Northeast: Bahia brings together samples from Alagoas, Paraíba, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe, states with less than 100 thousand live births; Central-West: Goiás will receive samples from Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul; Southeast: Minas Gerais will centralize samples from Espírito Santo; South: Paraná will continue to receive samples from Santa Catarina. In addition to reviewing the policy, the objectives include promoting early diagnosis and comprehensive care in the public network. "This is the first step so that we can move forward with the National Neonatal Screening Program. It is the step of restructuring", said the director of the Department of Specialized and Thematic Care (Daet), Suzana Ribeiro. [Read more.](#)

### **EDUCATIONAL AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS HINDER DIAGNOSES OF RARE DISEASES**

Although they are rare individually, the rare diseases affect 1.3 in every 2,000 people, which is equivalent to 13 million Brazilians, according to the Ministry of Health. This is because it is estimated that there are between 6,000 and 8,000 rare diseases. This diversity makes it difficult for primary care doctors and even specialists to identify cases, which means that diagnoses take years to occur. [Read more.](#)

### **PLANS REGISTER A 20% INCREASE IN HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR RARE DISEASES**

Health plans in Brazil registered, between 2021 and 2022, a 20.4% increase in the number of hospitalizations of beneficiaries with rare diseases, highlighted an article in Folha de S. Paulo. The number of visits to these patients increased from 156.5 thousand to 188.4 thousand in the period analyzed. This is what the study 'Rare Diseases: Panorama of Spending on Hospitalizations in Health Plans in Brazil', by the Institute of Supplementary Health Studies (IESS), carried out using data from the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), shows. The material will be released this Thursday (29), on the occasion of World Rare Disease Day. [Read more.](#)

### **DEBATES CELEBRATE RARE DISEASES DAY IN BRAZILIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**

The National Congress held one solemn session and three debates during the World and National Rare Disease Day: [- Solem Session at the House of Representatives](#); [- House of Representatives holds meeting on World Rare Disease Day](#); [- Parliamentary Front for Rare Diseases is inaugurated in 2024](#); [- Senate Committee debates the National Policy for Comprehensive Care for People with Rare Diseases](#)

### **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR HEALTH JUDGMENTS AT THE STJ AND STF IN 2024?**

Report organized by Jota showed which are the prominent health topics that will be on the agenda at the Federal Supreme Court (STF) and the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) throughout 2024. According to the publication, at the STJ, the expectation is continued discussions around the provision of treatments for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In the STF, attention turns to criteria for opening and expanding places for medical courses, in addition to responsibility for paying for medicines that are not incorporated into the Unified Health System, but which had their supply determined by court decision. At this time, a special commission was created to study the case. Despite the focus on these agendas, there is the possibility of other issues being brought to trial in both the STJ and the STF. In the STF, for example, four trials are awaited to be resumed in the Court's plenary, such as the distribution of medicines not incorporated into the Unified Health System (SUS), in addition to the decriminalization of drugs and abortion. [Read more.](#)

### **MINISTER OF HEALTH RECEIVES ALLIED PARTIES AND DISCUSSES PAYMENT OF AMENDMENTS**

After criticism from the allied base regarding the payment of parliamentary amendments, the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, met with congressmen this Wednesday (28) to present a draft that will guide the release of resources this year, reported Valor Econômico. According to congressmen, the document will be published by Monday in the 'Official Gazette of the Union'. Participating in the meeting with the minister were leaders of the parties in the House of Representatives and the special secretary for Parliamentary Affairs of the Secretariat of Institutional Relations (SRI), Valmir Prascidelli. [Read more.](#)

### **MASS VACCINATION AGAINST DENGUE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN 2024, SAYS NÍSIA TRINDADE**

The Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, said, this Friday (1), that 'it will not be possible to carry out mass vaccination' against dengue this year, reported the UOL portal. Nísia once again said that Qdenga, which is currently being applied, is 'hope', but needs to be reapplied in 3 months. 'For this moment, regardless of the number of doses, people will not be protected, because it is adopted in 2 doses and with an interval of 3 months', she stated, in an interview with GloboNews. The minister said that the government is discussing alternatives to expand the supply of the vaccine. [Read more.](#)

### **PARANÁ STATE EVALUATES CHANGING DRUG PRICE TAXATION**

The government of Paraná will evaluate the possibility of making changes to taxation in order to lower the price of medicines by up to 70% in the state, highlighted an article on the Panorama Farmacêutico portal with information from the RIC portal. According to the report, a commission formed by representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and those involved in the distribution and final sale of medicines met with Governor Ratinho Junior last week. Without guaranteeing changes, the governor promised to call the Finance Department to study the matter and see what can be done. He also said that he has been reviewing the taxation model for two years, in an attempt to lower the price of medicines. [Read more.](#)

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

[Appointed rapporteur for the bill about awareness on HPV vaccination and breast, cervical and prostate cancer](#)

[Ministry of Education provides information on the inclusion of content on rare diseases in the guidelines for undergraduate health courses](#)

[Innovative treatment for phenylketonuria is approved by Anvisa](#)

[Einstein program detects that 22% of endometriosis surgeries are unnecessary](#)

[Biotech company bets on GMO mosquitoes to fight dengue in Brazil as cases surge](#)

[Japan's Takeda in regulatory talks to launch dengue vaccine in India](#)

[Smartwatches cannot be used to measure blood glucose](#)

**BRAZIL NEWS**

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['I hope Biden wins,' Brazil's Lula says ahead of US election](#)

[Brazil's Lula says he wants to resume diplomatic presence in Caribbean nations](#)

[Brazil's Lula to discuss Esequibo, election with Venezuela's Maduro](#)

[Brazil's Lula spotlights Global South in G20 presidency](#)

[Brazil's economy up 2.9% in 2023 but stagnates in Q4](#)

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