

WEEKLY REPORT

04/13/2024



MINISTER OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES ACTIONS TO REDUCE WAITING TIMES FOR EXAMS AND CONSULTATIONS IN THE SUS

After weeks of suffering pressure from outside and within the government itself, the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, announced this Monday, 8th, alongside President Lula, new actions by the department to try to reduce the waiting time for exams and consultations specialized services, one of the biggest bottlenecks in the Unified Health System (SUS) and one of the most highlighted points by Lula in the presidential campaign, reported Estado de S. Paulo. At this Monday's event, Nísia presented the More Access to Specialists. As part of the new action, the minister promised online services in the SUS with specialist doctors, extension of the opening hours of the Basic Health Units (UBSs) until 10 pm and extra transfers to hire spaces in the agenda of private units to carry out procedures for SUS patients. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH ADMITS DELAY, BUT SAYS IT WILL START TREATMENT FOR CANCER PATIENTS WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER EXAMINATION

The Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, admits that there is a delay in starting cancer treatment in the country and stated that it is expected to begin within 60 days of diagnosis. The goal is part of the More Specialists Program, launched this Monday (8), at an event with President Lula (PT). The law already establishes that the first oncological treatment in the SUS must begin within a maximum period of 60 days from the signature of the pathological report or within a shorter period, as necessary. According to the Minister of Health, the forecast is to have tumors diagnosed within 30 days in the public service by 2025. Cancer treatment begins within 60 days of diagnosis, also within a maximum period of two years. Currently, the time varies, but can be longer than the advertised period. [Read more.](#)

WITH GUIDANCE FROM A MARKETER AND INTERVIEW TRAINING, PRESIDENT WANTS TO SHIELD NÍSIA TRINDADE

After the series of crisis faced by the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, the Presidency mounted an operation in an attempt to shield her politically and improve her image. The initiative involves President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the Secretariat of Institutional Relations, and the Secretariat of Social Communication (Secom). In conversations with Lula and Planalto ministers, Nísia has been urged to forward a "positive agenda", with travel and more direct contact with the population. It was suggested, for example, that she participate in the arrival of Mais Médicos professionals at health units and present what is happening in the department — the agenda has been rethought with this perspective. At the head of Secom, minister Paulo Pimenta has worked to redirect the agenda. [Read more.](#)

MINISTER PROPOSES OPENING DATA ON EXTRA HEALTH TRANSFERS IN 2023

After being questioned by parliamentarians from the Health Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, said that she can open the data on all extra transfers made in 2023 based on the ordinance that redistributed resources from parliamentary amendments, after the Constitutional Amendment 126, of 2022. The amendment redistributed the resources from the old rapporteur's amendments to the Budget following a decision by the Federal Supreme Court (STF) on their unconstitutionality. Nísia said she made the transfers

with the support of states and municipalities, but parliamentarians questioned a transfer to Cabo Frio (RJ), which would have been greater than the others. According to the minister, the ministry's Ordinance 544/23 offered the criteria for the initial transfer of R\$3 billion, and the mayors and governors claimed the resources through specific proposals. [Read more.](#)

ADJUSTMENT OF 4.5% IN MEDICINES SHOULD PROTECT DRUGSTORE MARGINS, SAYS FITCH

The 4.5% adjustment in drug prices that was implemented this month by the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED) should protect the margins of pharmaceutical retailers, says Fitch. Analysts Renato Donatti and Pedro Gonzalez write that the increase is consistent with expectations and is in line with inflation for the period, so it should not exert greater pressure in the normal course of business. [Read more.](#)

AT A CNS MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES DEBATE BILL ON CLINICAL TRIALS

On Wednesday (10) and Thursday (11), the National Health Council (CNS) held its 353rd Ordinary Meeting. On the occasion, council members debated Bill 6007/2023, on research with human beings in Brazil, which is under analysis in the Federal Senate. [Read more.](#)

RIO IS THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY WITH A LAW THAT BENEFITS THOSE WITH RARE DISEASES

From now on, people with rare diseases will have more legal protection and access to decent living conditions in Rio de Janeiro. The state is the first in the country to have the Statute of Persons with Complex and Rare Chronic Diseases, a set of laws that consolidate the rights of these people, in addition to the duties of the State and the private sector. The measure is provided for in new Law 10.315/24, sponsored by state representative Munir Neto (PSD), coordinator of the Parliamentary Front for Rare Diseases of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, sanctioned by governor Cláudio Castro and published this Wednesday (10), in the Official State Gazette. Among the innovations are the guarantee of psychosocial support, priority medical care, free intercity transport, priority in school enrollment and incentives for entering the job market. In addition to Law 10,315/24 that created the statute, three laws that benefit people with rare diseases were fully sanctioned by the governor and also published today. The new laws ensure priority for these people in all phases of the administrative processes to which they are parties at the state level (Law 10.316/24), in all services provided by public bodies in Rio de Janeiro (Law 10.317/24) and in health care units. public or private healthcare in the state (Law 10,323/24). [Read more.](#)

LEGAL ACTIONS FOR CHILDREN DIFFER IN THE SUS AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Lizzie, 1 year old, from Cubatão (SP), is allergic to milk and can only eat infant formula. She needs 12 cans per month, which cost R\$3,000, equivalent to the family's income. The parents took legal action, and the state of São Paulo was forced to provide the food. Rafael, 9, has been diagnosed with level 3 autism support for two years. Faced with the lack of qualified professionals in the service indicated by the health plan, the mother went to court and managed to get the health insurance plan to reimburse the treatment at another clinic, which costs around R\$10,000 per month. The reality of these two children illustrates well the current scenario of the judicialization of children's health in the state of São Paulo, which has a quite different profile depending on whether the defendant is the SUS or the health plans, highlighted a report by Folha de S. Paulo. The portrait was drawn up in a study by Insper, which analyzed 290 cases judged by the São Paulo Court of Justice between 2011 and 2022 related to petitions in the health area that had children and adolescents under the age of 18 at the forefront. Among those who use the public health system, the actions are more inclusive. There are more black, brown and girls, more presence of public defenders and less concentration of diseases

and problems that motivate legal action. When it comes to actions against health plans, the plaintiff tends to be more male, young, and white. Private lawyers also predominate (80% of cases). These causes have an average value five times higher than those in which the SUS (Unified Health System) is activated. According to the researchers, the objective of the work was to investigate what motivations underlie the judicialization of health involving children and young people and to understand the weight of social inequalities in this phenomenon. According to the work, the three most frequent health conditions that motivate litigation against health plans are autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which accounts for 51% of demands, epilepsy, with 6%, and the disorder attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), with 3%. In the case of the public sector, the pattern is more heterogeneous. Demands for treatments for these disorders (ASD and ADHD) and diabetes, for example, represent, in each case, 10% of actions. [Read more.](#)

NEW HEMOBRÁS FACTORY REINFORCES DEBATE ON PHARMACEUTICAL INPUTS

The new Hemobrás factory, the Brazilian Blood Derivatives and Biotechnology Company, opened on the 4th, reinforced an old debate: national self-sufficiency when it comes to pharmaceutical inputs. The information is from Correio Braziliense. Despite believing in the potential of the pharmaceutical industry, experts highlight the size of the challenge to meet 100% of local demand. Currently, only 5% of this total comes from here, according to Abiquifi. According to the secretary of science, technology, innovation and strategic inputs at the Ministry of Health, Carlos Gadelha, spending on imports grew during the pandemic and did not return to what was previously recorded. "During the pandemic alone, imports increased by US\$5 billion (around R\$25 billion). We are importing a level of US\$23 to 25 billion (between R\$115 and R\$125 billion) per year", he states. In 2021, Abiquifi conducted a study that showed that, to expand national development and infrastructure by 20%, it would take up to 10 years and cost around US\$1 billion (approximately R\$5.5 billion at the exchange rate at the time). [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES CUT IN POPULAR PHARMACY

The Lula government announced a cut in Farmácia Popular. The program responsible for distributing discounted medicines lost around 20% of its budget, highlighted an article on the Panorama Farmacêutico portal with information from Folha de S. Paulo. The government initiative pays up to 90% of the value of medicines used to combat diseases such as Parkinson's and glaucoma. Recipients must visit accredited pharmacies to take advantage of the benefits. The health sector was not the only one affected, as several government investments were reduced in order to adapt accounts to the new rules of the fiscal framework. The cuts total savings of more than R\$4 billion and the Ministries of Education and Finance were also impacted. [Read more.](#)

NUMBER OF DOCTORS HAS NEVER BEEN SO HIGH IN BRAZIL, BUT DISTRIBUTION BY STATE IS IMPRESSIVE

Brazil has never had so many doctors, highlighted an article in the newspaper O Globo. A survey carried out by the Federal Council of Medicine indicates that the country reached the mark of 2.8 doctors per thousand inhabitants in 2023, a jump since 2016, when this number was 2.03, and an abyss since 1990, when the rate was 0.91. Even so, the CFM x-ray indicates that most Brazilians are still far from having easy access to a healthcare professional. While in the Federal District there are 6.31 doctors per thousand inhabitants, a rate much higher than the national average, at the other extreme is Maranhão, with 1.26. [Read more.](#)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

[Senator Teresa Leitão is appointed rapporteur of the bill about treatment for climacteric women and National Awareness Week](#)

[Senator Chico Rodrigues is appointed rapporteur of the bill about the Parliamentary Front for the Development of the Pharmaceutical Industry](#)

[Mato Grosso Legislative Assembly will analyze bill that creates the Leukemia Early Identification Program](#)

[Assembly of Minas Gerais state will analyze bill that guarantees the performance of magnetic resonance imaging in the evaluation of prostate cancer](#)

[Committee in the Federal Senate will hear Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade](#)

[Bill aims to create the National Database of Rare Diseases](#)

[Bill aims to guarantee laboratory and imaging tests for the diagnosis and monitoring of people with rare genetic diseases in the SUS](#)

BRAZIL NEWS

[Brazil judge opens inquiry into Musk after refusal to block accounts on X](#)

[Musk says X received US House query on Brazil actions](#)

[Amid probe into Musk, Brazil's top court says 'every company is subject to the constitution'](#)

[Musk, Argentine president see eye-to-eye on boosting free markets and lithium](#)

[Among G20 nations, only India tops Brazil in poverty rates](#)

[Brazil's GDP to grow 1.7% in 2024, World Bank says](#)

[Brazil readies new 2025 fiscal target of 0.1% primary surplus, sources say](#)

[Brazil consumer prices expected to have remained subdued in March - Reuters poll](#)

[Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon down 40% in Q1, minister says](#)

[CEO of Brazil oil firm Petrobras to stay in role for now, sources say](#)

[Southern Brazil reaps record soy to offset center-west crop failure](#)

[USDA disparity in Brazil crop forecasts spreads to Argentina](#)

[U.S. agriculture secretary says China favors Brazil](#)

[China surpasses Argentina, supplying 40% of Brazil's imported cars](#)

[Brazil police crack down on US migration racket](#)