

WEEKLY REPORT

06/29/2024



MINISTRY OF HEALTH ESTABLISHES THE DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS FOR PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT (PDP) AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (PDIL)

The Department of the Economic-Industrial Complex of Health and Innovation for the SUS has opened the deadline, until September 23, 2024, for the submission of proposals for the Partnership Programs for Productive Development (PDP) and Local Development and Innovation (PDIL). Last Friday (21), the Ministry of Health published, in the Official Gazette of the Union, the ordinances of both programs, which aim to implement the National Strategy for the Development of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex. [Read more.](#)

ACTIONS AGAINST HEALTH PLANS GROW 33%; STF AND CNJ STUDY MEASURES AGAINST JUDICIALIZATION

The number of new actions against health plans grew by almost 33% in just one year in the country and the high litigation in the sector is already drawing attention even the president of the Federal Supreme Court (STF), minister Luís Roberto Barroso, who, together with the National Council of Justice (CNJ), is studying initiatives to deal with the issue. The number of lawsuits filed against operators reached 234.1 thousand in 2023, according to data from the CNJ - an average of one new lawsuit filed every two minutes. The number is 32.8% higher than the 176.3 thousand legal demands against medical plans in 2022, and the increase is much higher than that observed in cases against the Unified Health System (SUS) in the same period, when legal requests for treatments and medicines in the public network increased by 11.8%. Operators' spending on legal expenses reached R\$5.5 billion last year, a value 37% higher than in 2022. Operators say that the significant increase in the number of lawsuits is not related to failures in service provision, but rather, the approval of law 14,454/2022, which determined that health plans must cover procedures not included in the coverage list defined by the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS). According to the companies, this opened a gap for beneficiaries to demand all types of treatment in court, regardless of clinical indication and scientific evidence. [Read more.](#)

PROVISIONAL MEASURE IS PUBLISHED TO GUARANTEE TAX EXEMPTION FOR IMPORTED MEDICINES

The President of the Republic published, in an extra edition of the Official Gazette of the Union, this Friday (28), Provisional Measure 1236/2024, which amends Decree-Law No. 1,804, of September 3, 1980, which provides for taxation simplified international postal remittances, and Law No. 14,902, of June 27, 2024, which establishes the Green Mobility and Innovation Program (Mover Program). The measure was issued to guarantee the maintenance of tax exemption for imported medicines, after the approval of the law that began to tax imported products worth up to US\$50 at 20%. The text of the proposal generated doubts among lawyers and tax experts about the application of the new tax also for medicines, as the law may overlap with an ordinance from the Ministry of Finance that establishes a lower tax for imported medicines. [Read more.](#)

MINISTER OF HEALTH: 'ONCOLOGY IS A CHALLENGE, BUT IT CAN HAVE A BETTER RESPONSE IN THE SUS'

The Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, stated that despite the complexity of oncology, the Unified Health System (SUS) has the capacity to provide better responses to the Brazilian

population. She highlighted that the More Access to Specialists program is an essential part of the process of reducing queues. The statement was made this Monday morning (24), in Petrópolis, in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro, during the inauguration of new facilities at the Alcides Carneiro Hospital. In total, 87 beds will be opened for cancer treatment and care for pregnant women, postpartum women, and babies. "We need to ensure there is no long wait time and that is the goal of the More Access to Specialists program. This is what we will do together to improve the condition of care and reduce the suffering of patients. This is SUS in practice", he stressed. Nísia considered that the program is one of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's priorities at the Ministry of Health. Nísia reaffirmed that she has been working to strengthen the SUS. "The main characteristic of the public network is to make a concrete difference in the lives of the Brazilian people. The SUS is a great achievement for our population, but what matters is what it represents in a concrete way in people's lives", she commented. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CONFIRMS GENERAL COORDINATOR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY

The Ministry of Health published, in the Official Gazette of the Union this Wednesday (26), the ordinance that appoints José Barreto Campelo Carneiro to hold the executive commissioned position of General Coordinator of the National Cancer Prevention and Control Policy. He is a professor of clinical oncology, at the Department of Anesthesiology, Oncology and Radiology, at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP). He graduated in Medicine from the University of Pernambuco in 1994. He completed three years of medical residency in clinical medicine at UNICAMP. He specialized in clinical oncology by the Brazilian Society of Clinical Oncology. Between 1998 and 2002, he completed his doctorate at UNICAMP. He was a visiting professor at the University of California, San Francisco, from 2012 to 2014. He works on investigating the molecular and cellular mechanisms that connect obesity and anorexia to cancer. [Read more.](#)

COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL AIMING TO INCLUDE IMMUNOTHERAPY IN CLINICAL PROTOCOLS AND THERAPEUTIC GUIDELINES FOR CANCER

The Constitution, Justice, and Citizenship Committee (CCJC) approved, in a deliberative meeting held this Tuesday (25), Bill 2371/2021, which proposes changes to the Organic Health Law, to include immunotherapy in clinical protocols and cancer therapeutic guidelines. The bill was sponsored by representative Bibó Nunes (PL-RS) and was approved with a favorable opinion from the rapporteur, Laura Carneiro (PSD-RJ). The text is being analyzed in the form of the substitute presented by representative Carmen Zanotto (Cidadania-SC) in the Health Committee, which defines that clinical protocols and therapeutic guidelines for cancer will include the use of immunotherapy when it proves to be superior or safer than traditional options, in the form of the regulation. [Read more.](#)

INCA AND MEDICAL SOCIETIES DIFFER ON EMPHASIS ON LUNG CANCER SCREENING

In a debate at the Special Commission on Combating Cancer this Tuesday (25), the National Cancer Institute (Inca) and the Alliance against Lung Cancer, formed by six medical societies, disagreed regarding the emphasis on screening among strategies to combat cancer. Currently, lung cancer is the third most prevalent among men and the fourth among women. There are around 32 thousand new cases per year in Brazil and 1.7 million worldwide. Around 90% of cases are associated with smoking and symptoms begin to appear at an advanced stage of the disease, over 50 years of age. [Read more.](#)

EXPERTS ADVOCATE EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER

Experts defended, during a seminar this Friday (28) in the Chamber of Deputies, early diagnosis, and multidisciplinary care in cases of head and neck cancer, an important occurrence in Brazil and around the world. Doctor José Guilherme Vartanian, 1st vice-president of the Brazilian Society of Head and Neck Surgery, said that, worldwide, these cancers affect 7% of

the population. In Brazil, in men, 4.6% of total cancer cases are of the oral cavity and 2.7% of the larynx; in women, 5.8% affect the thyroid gland. Vartanian highlighted that the main risk factors are avoidable. "In addition to tobacco and alcohol consumption, in the last 20 years there has been a significant increase in cases of oropharyngeal cancer caused by the HPV virus, generally transmitted through unprotected sexual contact," he pointed out. [Read more.](#)

COMMITTEE PASSES BILL THAT CAN INCLUDE PATIENT ADVOCACY GROUPS IN THE CONITEC'S COMPOSITION

In a deliberative meeting held this Tuesday (25), the Constitution, Justice, and Citizenship Committee (CCJC) approved Bill 1241/2023, which modifies the composition of the Commission National Institute for the Incorporation of Technologies into the Unified Health System (Conitec). Sponsored by representative Rosângela Moro (União-SP), the bill was approved with a favorable opinion of the rapporteur, representative Alfredo Gaspar (UNIÃO-AL). The approved text says the Conitec's decisions will include: a representative appointed by the National Health Council, a specialist representative in the area appointed by the Federal Council of Medicine, a geneticist and a representative of a national civil organization, established more than two years ago, working in the area of the respective specialty or pathology. In addition, it establishes, at Conitec, a subcommittee that deals with the topic of Rare Diseases, which will include the participation of a geneticist representative appointed by the Brazilian Medical Association. It also guarantees that, if the drug is approved by Anvisa and not incorporated into the SUS for exclusively budgetary reasons, Conitec will publish a protocol for use or its therapeutic guideline, in order to guide the prescription. [Read more.](#)

PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A RARE DISEASE SUE THE UNION TO BUY MEDICINE WORTH R\$ 15 MILLION

The family of Murilo Gabriel Costa Nascimento, 4, from Sumaré (118 km from São Paulo), went to court asking the federal government to buy the drug Elevidys, from Sarepta Therapeutics. The therapy — indicated for the treatment of patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which causes progressive muscle weakness — costs more than R\$15 million and is not sold in Brazil. In the first instance, the Court ruled in favor of the Union. The family appealed and won. On Thursday (20), the family's lawyer, Letícia Novo, told the reporter that the government appealed. When the decision becomes final, the lawyer also intends to petition the Court for Amil Assistência Médica Internacional SA to pay for the procedure. Applied in a single dose, Elevidys was approved in 2023 in the United States by the FDA (American Food and Drug Administration) for patients aged 4 and 5 years. Authorization was granted based on phase 1 and 2 clinical trials, which indicated an increase in microdystrophin protein in children in this age group undergoing therapy. The pharmaceutical company Roche Farma Brasil submitted the registration request to Anvisa (National Health Surveillance Agency) in October 2023. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SAYS IN DOCUMENT THAT SUS STOCKS OF IMMUNITY MEDICINE ONLY LAST UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF JULY

The Department of Logistics (DLOG) of the Ministry of Health stated in an internal document signed on the 13th that the stock of the immunoglobulin drug paste only lasts until the beginning of July. The medicine is derived from blood plasma and is used to improve the immunity of patients suffering from a range of diseases, such as Guillain-Barré syndrome. The purchase of 817 thousand bottles of the medicine was suspended by decision of the Federal Court, but there was authorization from the Minister of the Federal Supreme Court (STF) Nunes Marques to resume the bidding this Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

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[Health selects projects focusing on the use of evidence for decision-making](#)

[Ministry of Health may provide information on the expansion of the neonatal screening test](#)

[Anvisa announces startup projects selected to receive regulatory guidance on drug innovation](#)

[Anvisa postpones discussion on the end of paper medicine leaflets after Idec's request](#)

[Event will discuss challenges and advances in ethics in research with human beings in Brazil](#)

[Creation of Muscular Dystrophies Awareness Day goes to sanction](#)

BRAZIL NEWS

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