

WEEKLY REPORT

09/21/2024



STF RESUMES TRIAL ABOUT CRITERIA FOR PROVISION OF DRUGS IN THE JUDICIARY BRANCH

On Friday (9/20), the Plenary of the Supreme Federal Court resumed the definition of the criteria for exceptional cases in which the Judiciary Branch may order the provision of medicines not incorporated into the Unified Health System (SUS). Minister Kassio Nunes Marques returned the case files on Thursday (9/19) after a request for review and now presented his vote — the only one missing —, in which he agreed with the thesis for which a majority had already formed since September 9. Kassio had requested a review of the case last Friday (9/13), when all the other ministers had already voted. The score was already 9 to 1 in favor of the thesis proposed jointly by Barroso and Gilmar Mendes. The thesis followed by the majority of ministers brings requirements such as administrative refusal, financial incapacity of the patient and effective, safe, essential, and irreplaceable medicine. Rules to be followed by judges were also stipulated, who must, for example, consult technical bodies. [Read more.](#)

BILL AIMS TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF TREATMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUS AND NOT REGISTERED WITH ANVISA

Senator Romário (PL-RJ) presented Complementary Bill 149/2024, which establishes the criteria for federative entities to provide medications not included in the standards of the Unified Health System (SUS) or not yet registered with the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa). The proposal requires, in order to provide medications outside the SUS guidelines, the presentation of a detailed medical report, issued by the professional treating the patient, proving the need and indispensability of the medication. This report must demonstrate the ineffectiveness of the treatments offered by the SUS and the financial impossibility of the patient to pay for the prescribed medication. In addition, the medication must be registered with Anvisa and be indicated for the uses approved by the agency. The text also clarifies that the State is not obliged to provide experimental medications. [Read more.](#)

DISTRIBUTION DOMINATES SALE OF SPECIALTY DRUGS

The sale of specialty medicines has been gaining new players. Distributors focused on this type of drug already represent 60% of the demand in the so-called institutional Market, totaling R\$ 47 billion in revenue in the last 12 months up to June of this year. Four years ago, their share did not reach 50%. According to IQVIA indicators, sales of medicines for the hospital channel and the SUS totaled R\$ 78.3 billion. The value exceeded the result of the same previous period 18.7%, above the overall growth of 12.6% and the 9.6% increase in retail sales. [Read more.](#)

HALF OF THE MRI MACHINES IN BRAZIL ARE IN THE PRIVATE NETWORK, AND ONLY 25% OF BRAZILIANS HAVE ACCESS

In Brazil, although around 25% of the population uses supplementary health services, 1,815 (52.47% of the total) of 3,459 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines are concentrated in this service. The remaining 1,644 are operated by the SUS (Unified Health System). Across the country, the distribution of machines indicates a value of around 17.03 devices for every million inhabitants. The calculation divides the number of devices by the total number of inhabitants in the country multiplied by one million. The data, made available on the Ministry of Health 's portal by CNES (National Registry of Health Companies) and accessed until the 2nd, show how unequal access to health technologies is in the country. [Read more.](#)

WAITING FOR TREATMENT IN THE SUS CAN REDUCE SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS WITH PANCREATIC CANCER

Slow logistics are what doctors point out as the main factor that harms patients with the disease in the public system. Pancreatic cancer is already one of the leading causes of death in Brazil, according to INCA (National Cancer Institute). "In the private sector, patients have faster access to tomography, endoscopic ultrasound and biopsy, which help to diagnose the problem more quickly, allowing treatment to begin quickly. In the SUS, the difficulties lie in accessing these technologies and surgeries. Patients often wait a long time to get a tomography exam, then wait longer to have a biopsy or surgery, in addition to waiting in line to see an oncologist and start treatment," says Daniel Girardi, an oncologist at Hospital Sírio Libanês. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL STILL USES 17,000 DOMESTIC REFRIGERATORS TO STORE VACCINES

When commenting on the challenges involving the supply of vaccines and immunobiologicals in Brazil, the director of the National Immunization Program (PNI), Eder Gatti, said that the country still uses around 17 thousand domestic refrigerators to store doses. In addition to not being approved by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa), the equipment may present internal temperature instability, putting the effectiveness of the vaccines at risk. In general, vaccine storage requires the use of specific equipment, such as so-called cold rooms, which have a temperature control and monitoring system. "The PNI wants to have the best vaccination schedule in the world. There is no doubt about that. But we must have priorities and a budget," said Gatti, specifically mentioning the Brazilian cold chain. "Across the country, the scenario is still very complex," he reinforced, when participating, this Friday (20), in the 26th National Immunization Conference, in Recife. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH DELAYS PURCHASE, CORONAVAC EXPIRES IN STOCK AND LULA GOVERNMENT LOSES R\$260 MILLION

The Lula government (PT) wasted at least R\$260 million on Coronavac vaccines purchased at the end of September 2023, when the vaccine already played a secondary role in the SUS (Unified Health System) campaign because it was not updated for Covid variants. Days before the delivery of the doses, the Ministry of Health exempted the Butantan Institute from the obligation to replace batches with a validity period shorter than the period defined in the contract. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH PLANS AND HOSPITALS JOIN FORCES TO REDUCE COSTS: UNDERSTAND THE NEW MODEL FOR CONSUMERS

Rede D'Or and SulAmérica, Bradesco and Fleury, Amil and Dasa, an alliance of philanthropic hospitals in São Paulo. The intra-sector consolidation in private healthcare is advancing and is beginning to transform the way this market operates and offers products to consumers. It is a movement anchored in gains in scale, efficiency, and cost control, and which tends to alleviate pressures on adjustments in health plans. However, it is not yet clear whether, in the future, it will be possible to direct users to have their care concentrated in specific groups of hospitals, clinics and their professionals. [Read more.](#)

REDE D'OR TO INVEST R\$7.5BN BY 2028 IN EXPANSION

With R\$17.5 billion in its cash reserves—an amount that exceeds the sum of the other ten publicly traded companies in the healthcare segment in Brazil—and low leverage, Rede D'Or is investing around R\$7.5 billion to open 5,400 new beds by 2028, an increase of 46% over its current base. The company has favored an organic expansion, which has provided better returns when compared to once attractive asset acquisition. Currently, asset acquisition deals face depreciated commercial agreements with healthcare plan providers. The crisis in the sector—which slowed down mergers and acquisitions in the last two years—has been controlled and consolidation in the sector is now expected to resume, as the high cost of hospital market demands scale. [Read more.](#)

PRIVATE HOSPITALS POINT TO REDUCTION IN THE USE OF MOST HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES

Two of the most critical points for the supplementary health sector, the use and cost of services, were analyzed by the Quarterly Financial and Operational Panorama of Health Insurance Plans, released this Thursday (19/9) by the National Association of Private Hospitals (Anahp). The survey concluded that there is no widespread overuse of products nor a diffuse increase in operating costs. On the contrary, "in most cases, there has been a reduction in the use of health insurance services per person. With the exception of the 18% increase in the number of exams per beneficiary, all other groups of care presented results that were lower (as in the case of medical consultations and hospitalizations) or slightly higher (as in other outpatient care) than those recorded in 2019", says the report in relation to procedures per beneficiary. [Read more.](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

[Law enacted that requires production of drugs for neglected diseases](#)

[Governor of Minas Gerais sanctions law that ensures identification of people with rare and serious diseases](#)

[Red lighting at Congress celebrates World Bone Marrow Donor Day](#)

[Safe diagnosis is the theme of World Patient Safety Day in 2024](#)

BRAZIL NEWS

[Brazil's tinkering to meet fiscal target threatens to dent credibility](#)

[Lula signs law maintaining payroll relief for 17 sectors, with vetoes](#)

[Brazil central bank raises rates by 25 bp, first hike in two years](#)

[Economists find COPOM statement more hawkish than rate hike](#)

[Brazil court asks X for documents as the platform starts to comply with orders](#)

[Starlink, at center of legal dispute, assists Supreme Court in Yanomami territory](#)

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