

# WEEKLY REPORT

10/19/2024



## **DEBATERS DEFEND PROVISION OF TREATMENT FOR MENOPAUSE IN THE SUS**

The provision of treatment by the Unified Health System (SUS) for women in menopause or climacteric was the central theme of a public hearing held this Wednesday (16) by the Social Affairs Committee (CAS). The debate took place during the week of World Menopause Day is celebrated (October 18), established by the World Health Organization (WHO). A bill presented by Senator Mecias de Jesus (Republicanos-RR), which is being analyzed by the Committee, guarantees access to hormone replacement therapy and other medications that help alleviate symptoms such as hot flashes, insomnia, and cardiovascular problems during this stage of life. According to Mecias, the SUS does not currently offer the main treatment to alleviate these symptoms. Bill 3,933/2023 also creates the National Awareness Week for Women in Menopause or Climacteric. [Read more.](#)

## **PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT PRESENTS RULES FOR THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS OUTSIDE THE SUS AND CITES 'TRAGIC CHOICES'**

The president of the STF (Supreme Federal Court), Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, presented together with the Minister of Health, Nísia Trindade, this Thursday (17), the decision that established the rules for the supply of medicines not included in the SUS (Unified Health System) in cases that end up in court. The court defined, as a rule, that the judge can only exceptionally determine the supply of a medicine registered with Anvisa that is not on the SUS lists, regardless of the cost. Barroso said the moment was "very special" and that the agreement could have a "significant impact on a challenging issue that poses many health challenges in the country." "The theme represents a profound transformation in the way all actors involved in the provision of health actions and services by the State operate. What was achieved here was an important definition of competencies, which is the role of the Union, the state, and the municipality," he declared. [Read more.](#)

## **SUPREME COURT SUSPENDS TREATMENTS WITH APPLICATION OF DECISION ON JUDICIALIZATION**

Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, president of the Brazilian Supreme Court (STF), has already begun to apply the court's new criteria for the judicial concession of drugs in decisions handed down this week. Barroso reiterated the criteria established, in September, for the judicial concession of high-cost medications that were authorized by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) and that were not incorporated by the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies (Conitec) into the Unified Health System (SUS). In one of the suspended supplies, the pediatric patient had the first application of the medication for Spine Muscular Atrophy scheduled for last Friday (10/18). [Read more.](#)

## **HOW TO OFFER ADVANCED AND EXPENSIVE THERAPIES TO THE POPULATION?**

There is a difficult equation to solve when it comes to health. In recent years, revolutionary treatments such as Zolgensma — the first gene therapy incorporated into the SUS, often cited as the most expensive medication in the world — and CAR-T — which uses the patient's own cells to treat tumors — have started to become a reality. However, treating a single patient can require millions of reais. What makes them so expensive? According to experts who participated in the Health and Well-Being Summit, promoted by Estadão newspaper this Monday, the 14th, this is related to the years of research and investment required. Furthermore, many of these

technologies are not developed in Brazil, which means there is a burden on the dollar itself. [Read more.](#)

### **REGISTRATION OF THE DRUG ELEVIDYS ONLY DEPENDS ON THE ROCHE LABORATORY, SAYS ANVISA SPECIALIST**

In a debate held in the Chamber of Deputies on the registration of the drug Elevidys for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the regulatory specialist at the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), Renata Miranda, said that the conclusion of the process depends solely on the laboratory. Roche, the company responsible for the drug in Brazil, must present the agency with a long-term monitoring plan for patients who receive the therapy. According to the specialist, this is the only step left for the product to be registered. Renata Miranda emphasized that Elevidys is a gene therapy. Since it is a new technology, the long-term effects of its use are not yet known. Hence the need to monitor the patients treated. "We are talking about a product that is a gene. It is a single injection, and it will be incorporated into the cells," he explained. "This product requires safety and efficacy monitoring studies. Therefore, we need the company to commit to this being done here in our country." [Read more.](#)

### **TRADE DEFICIT IN PHARMACEUTICALS IS A CHALLENGE FOR BRAZIL, SAYS BNDES DIRECTOR**

Although the health sector accounts for 10% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the development of the area requires that the country be able to reverse the US\$ 10 billion deficit in the trade balance in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical sector. The statement was made by the director of Productive Development, Innovation and Foreign Trade at the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), José Luis Gordon. "We want an innovative pharmaceutical industry. We will innovate in generics, but also in disruptive technologies." [Read more.](#)

### **EXECUTIVE GROUP OF THE HEALTH ECONOMIC-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX PRESENTS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECTS RECEIVED FROM PDP AND PDIL**

A meeting of the Executive Group of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex was held this Tuesday (15), in Brasília. At the meeting, the initiatives to use the purchasing power of the SUS, the main investments of the PAC-CEIS and the summary of the projects received from partnerships for productive development (PDP) and Local Development and Innovation (PDIL) were announced. Carlos Gadelha, Secretary of Science, Technology, and Innovation and of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex, began the event by presenting an assessment of the projects received from PDP and PDIL. He highlighted the government's efforts to promote the health industrial complex, emphasizing that this is not a policy of one department but of the entire Ministry, seeking a sovereign and autonomous SUS. In total, 322 projects were submitted, 147 of which were PDPs and 175 PDILs. [Read more.](#)

### **IPEA'S STUDY SHOWS 371% INCREASE IN RESOURCES FROM PARLIAMENTARY AMENDMENTS TO THE SUS**

The volume of resources allocated to public health, between 2014 and 2023, through Congressmen amendments to the federal budget increased by 371%. The number increased from R\$4.9 billion, in 2014, to R\$23 billion, in 2023. According to the Institute of Applied Economic Research (Ipea), the use of parliamentary amendments impacts the way resources are allocated in the Unified Health System (SUS), what can generate inequality in the distribution of resources across the country. The study "Federal Financing of Public Health Actions and Services through Parliamentary Amendments and Their Implications for the Regionalization of Health", released on Tuesday (10/15), shows that the figures for the Ministry of Health's (MS) participation in the allocation of resources for Public Health Actions and Services (ASPS), including mandatory expenses, fell from 96.8% to 87.2%, while resources from Congressmen amendments rose from 3.2% to 12.8% in 10 years. [Read more.](#)

## **ADJUSTMENT OF HEALTH PLANS ABOVE THE CEILING SETS OPERATORS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ENTITIES AT ODDS**

The possibility of health insurance companies making exceptional adjustments to the monthly payments of individual health plans, above the limit set by the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), has generated conflict between companies and consumer protection agencies. The proposal is one of the most controversial points in the discussion initiated by the agency to reform the rules of the sector. On the one hand, companies argue that it is necessary to make the individual plan portfolio sustainable, since, according to them, the amounts charged do not match the costs of more recent technologies and treatments. On the other hand, experts and entities claim that the exceptional adjustment may harm beneficiaries. On October 7, the two positions met during a public hearing proposed by the ANS to debate the proposals. [Read more.](#)

## **THERE IS NO POLITICAL WILL TO INTEGRATE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTHCARE, SAYS ANS PRESIDENT**

Two months before the end of his term at ANS (National Supplementary Health Agency), president Paulo Rebello states that there is no political will from the Ministry of Health to establish integration between the public and private health sectors. "There is a lot of talk, a lot of discussion and attempts to find a solution, but there is no political will to do anything. The fact is that we have a Brazilian health system that encompasses both the public and private sectors. I worked at the ministry, and I know the feeling regarding supplementary health. It is a sector that the ministry does not want to get involved in, does not want to put its finger on," he said. [Read more.](#)

## **THE IMPACTS OF SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH ON THE SUS**

The 359th Regular Meeting of the National Health Council brought the impacts of health plans on the Unified Health System (SUS) to the center of the debate on social control. Lucas Andrietta, Health Coordinator of the Institute for Consumer Protection (Idec) and Andrea Werner, state representative of São Paulo, were invited to the panel, promoted by the Intersectoral Commission for Supplementary Health (Ciss/CNS). The National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) was also invited to participate in the panel, but did not send a representative. In agreement, Lucas and Andrea indicated that the debate on complementary health should be contextualized from the perspective that demanding that health plans fulfill their duties towards beneficiaries is also fighting for the SUS. "When we talk about health insurance, we need to remember that fighting for this plan to fulfill its role is fighting for the SUS, because everything that this plan refuses to cover goes to the SUS. The SUS is the one who pays this bill," declared Congresswoman Andrea Werner, who indicated that since the beginning of her term in office in São Paulo, she has received 1,220 complaints related to health insurance plans, 30% of which are specifically about unilateral cancellation, even in cases where the beneficiary is undergoing treatment. [Read more.](#)

## **NUMBER OF DOCTORS ALMOST DOUBLES, BUT INEQUALITY MEANS STATES HAVE UP TO 5 TIMES MORE PROFESSIONALS THAN OTHERS, NEW SURVEY SHOWS**

A new survey based on data from the 2024 Medical Demographics of the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) shows that the number of doctors has increased by 89% in Brazil since 2010, rising from 304,406 to 575,930 active professionals this year. In 13 states, growth was more than double, with Piauí registering a jump of 158%. Even so, the country is experiencing intense inequality in the rate of professionals per thousand inhabitants, which can be as much as five times different between states. At the top end, the Federal District has a ratio of 6.3 per thousand people, while in Maranhão the rate is only 1.3. [Read more.](#)

## **SURVEY BY OPERATOR MAPS BRAZILIANS' SLOWNESS IN SEEKING MEDICAL HELP**

A study conducted by the Locomotiva Research Institute, in partnership with the Bradesco Seguros group, showed that Brazilians are neglecting the prevention of health problems. The analysis was presented during the latest Longevity Forum, held in São Paulo last Tuesday

(10/8). Conducted in March, the survey involved the participation of over a thousand volunteers, all of whom were adults and of different genders, ages, and regions. The questions were answered through an online questionnaire, using a method called the Personal Longevity Indicator (PLI). As a result, the study showed that only 43% of the participants underwent preventive exams and routine consultations. [Read more.](#)

### **HEALTH MINISTER SAYS ORDINANCE ON TRANSPLANTS IN BRAZIL WILL BE UPDATED**

Health Minister Nísia Trindade said that the ministry should change the ordinance that regulates the National Transplant System in Brazil. According to her, changes were already being prepared even before the scandal of transplant recipients infected with the HIV virus in Rio de Janeiro. The speech took place after an event at the Supreme Federal Court (STF) on the judicialization of health. According to the minister, the rules for transplants have always been "very strict" regarding the tests that had to be done during the transplant process, but the Ministry wants to improve the existing instruments, such as defining criteria for choosing the laboratories that perform the tests, such as the HIV test. In the case of those infected in Rio, a laboratory issued incorrect reports that said that the organ donors did not carry the virus. [Read more.](#)

### **DENGUE FEVER INCREASED BY 400% IN BRAZIL IN 2024**

Brazil has reached 6.5 million probable cases of dengue fever, according to the Arbovirus Monitoring Panel of the Ministry of Health. The data is provisional and refers to the period from January 1 to October 7. The incidence rate is 3,221.7 per 100,000 inhabitants. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers that rates above 300 cases per 100,000 inhabitants indicate an epidemic. [Read more.](#)

### **FIOCRUZ TO LEAD FIRST CLINICAL TRIAL OF A LEPROSY VACCINE IN BRAZIL**

A new vaccine for leprosy will be tested in Brazil by the Oswaldo Cruz Institute (IOC/Fiocruz). Called LepVax, the vaccine will be the first for the disease to be evaluated in the country during clinical trials. Authorization to begin testing was granted by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) this Monday (14/10). The Institute was chosen as the clinical center responsible for the tests due to its extensive scientific contribution to leprosy studies. The IOC/Fiocruz Leprosy Laboratory works in research and patient care within the scope of the National Leprosy Reference Service, together with the Ministry of Health. With a high capacity to conduct clinical studies, the Laboratory has a multidisciplinary team and the structure for immunological and molecular analyses. [Read more.](#)

#### **MORE HIGHLIGHTS**

[Government should analyze the creation of a regulatory body for agencies](#)

[Representative requests information on the 10 medicines intended for people with rare diseases that were denied by Conitec in 2023 and 2024](#)

[Public hearing may debate evidence-based medicine in judicialization in Brazil](#)

[Representative suggests making genetic tests available for diagnosing predisposition to cancer in women through the SUS](#)

[Public hearing on the regulation of the National Cancer Prevention and Control Policy rescheduled](#)

[Representatives of the Ministry of Health participate in the BRICS meeting in Russia](#)

[Ministry of Health participates in an event on the future of global health](#)

**BRAZIL NEWS**

[Bolsonaro's party set on running him for Brazil presidency in 2026](#)

[Brazil police probe to tie Bolsonaro to coup bid, end in November, source says](#)

[Brazil seeks extradition of January 8 rioters currently in Argentina](#)

[Brazil's Haddad backs limiting spending as fiscal issues worry markets](#)

[Brazil looks to curb spending after local elections, sources say](#)

[Brazil c bank reiterates GDP as key input; higher growth seen as possible](#)

[Brazil eyes closer regulatory cooperation with new central bank leadership](#)

[Brazil to regulate stablecoins in 2025, says central bank chief](#)

[Brazil state to consult Indigenous people on carbon credits sale](#)

[Brazil will not return to daylight saving time this year](#)

[Ukraine urges Brazil to arrest Putin if he attends G20 summit](#)

[Putin says his presence at G20 in Brazil would 'undermine' work there](#)

[Putin says BRICS, not the West, will drive global economic growth](#)

[Petrobras inks deal to supply Vale with fuel with renewable content](#)

[Brazil's Petrobras to reduce investments planned for 2025, sources say](#)

[Brazil to seal \\$30 bln compensation deal with miners over 2015 dam collapse, sources say](#)

[Brazil's Assai cuts estimate for 2025 new store openings](#)

[Satellite firm Visiona eyes growth as Brazil doubles down on aerospace](#)

[Embraer's Eve gets \\$88 million BNDES loan to build first plant](#)

[Rains may have come too late for Brazil's coffee](#)

[Brazilian corn heads up the latest USDA, Conab forecast disparity](#)

[Why does Brazil grow so much soy and eat so little?](#)

[EU envoys agree implementation delay of deforestation law](#)

[Fossil of new reptile species found in Brazil sheds light on rise of dinosaurs](#)