

WEEKLY REPORT

01/25/2025



LULA SIGNALS NÍSIA'S PERMANENCE, BUT DEMANDS NEW BRAND FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Amid discussions about ministerial reform, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signaled that the head of Health, Nísia Trindade, will remain in the government. The head of the Executive, however, demanded that she present a brand for the management. In two recent conversations, the minister, accompanied by assistants, presented the programs that the ministry has carried out and the public policies that were resumed from 2023 onwards. Lula, according to reports, stated that the initiatives were created in previous governments of his and Dilma Rousseff and that she needed to have her mark on the management of one of the ministries with the largest budget in the Esplanade. [Read more.](#)

WITH SIDÔNIO, HEALTH DEPARTMENT SETS UP PLAN TO PROTECT NÍSIA AND SHARE RESPONSIBILITY WITH STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES

Over the course of two years marked by crises involving an explosion of dengue cases, insufficient vaccines, and pressure from the Centrão, the Ministry of Health has developed a new communication strategy to avoid future problems and preserve Nísia Trindade's management. Mobilization foresees the advance of information to the public and pressure for states and municipalities to follow the federal government's policies. In order to reduce the impact of criticism, the new minister of the Secretariat of Social Communication (Secom), Sidônio Palmeira, was also appointed. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's assistant has already begun to closely monitor the challenges in the area. The plan designed by the Ministry of Health and already put into practice foresees increased dissemination of actions taken by the government but will also focus on sharing responsibilities with local governments. [Read more.](#)

SUS HAS NOT DELIVERED AT LEAST 76 MEDICINES AND PROCEDURES INCORPORATED INTO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM SINCE 2018

Long-acting insulin analogue, indicated for the treatment of type 1 diabetes, was incorporated into the SUS (Unified Health System) in 2019. According to the law, the medication should be available within 180 days, but after more than 2,000 days, patients still do not have access to it in the public network. According to a survey by Folha, this is not an isolated case. Patients face a saga to have access to medicines and procedures in the SUS. Currently, the Ministry of Health does not offer at least 76 items incorporated into the system, of which 64 have already exceeded the 180-day deadline. The problem, which has been addressed by the ministry's administrations, remains current under the leadership of Minister Nísia Trindade. The list includes medicines for cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, gynecological diseases, as well as exams, tests, and implants. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT TO REFORM DRUG PRICE REGULATIONS

The government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) will reform the regulations governing the setting of prices for medicines that reach the Brazilian market. The current model is considered outdated. The modernization of the legal framework for drug prices was included in the list of 25 measures on the economic agenda for the 2025-2026 biennium presented by the Minister of Finance, Fernando Haddad, to Lula at the ministerial meeting last Monday (20). The new legal framework will also define rules for the purchase of medicines by court order. The changes are being discussed by the council of ministers of Cmed (Chamber for the Regulation of the Medicines Market), an interministerial body composed of Anvisa (National Health

Surveillance Agency) and the ministries of Health, the Civil House, the Treasury and Justice. [Read more.](#)

ADVANCES IN DRUG REGISTRATION REGULATION

The new regulation RDC 957/2024 by Anvisa, published on December 31, 2024, brings significant advances in drug registration. Of note are the use of pharmacokinetic data in the selection of substitute drugs and article 24, which allows the registration of new drugs in cases of unavailability of reference drugs. This standard provides greater flexibility and legal certainty to the regulatory process, facilitating innovation and competitiveness in the pharmaceutical sector. The new guideline provides for the use of pharmacokinetic data in the selection of new reference drugs, allowing for a more scientific and effective approach in the regulatory process. This innovation facilitates the analysis of drugs to be elected as reference drugs and can speed up the registration of products with similar efficacy. [Read more.](#)

DUCHENNE DYSTROPHY MEDICATION ARRIVES IN BRAZIL AND COULD COST UP TO R\$20 MILLION.

A medication available for the treatment of DMD (Duchenne muscular dystrophy), Elevidys (delandistrogeno moxeparvoveque) has arrived in Brazil and could cost, at factory price, up to R\$20 million. The price of the medication varies and depends on the ICMS (Tax on Circulation of Goods) of each Brazilian state. Maranhão is the state with the highest tax, where the product could cost up to R\$20 million. In regions such as São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, the drug could cost between R\$18 and R\$19 million. For states with an ICMS rate of 17%, such as Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and Santa Catarina, the medicine costs R\$18 million. [Read more.](#)

COSAÚDE ANALYZES CONTRIBUTIONS ON TREATMENTS PRESENTED BY ASTELLAS FOR PROSTATE CANCER

The National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) held, on Wednesday (22), the first day of the 36th Technical Meeting of the Committee for Updating the List of Procedures and Events in Supplementary Health (Cosaúde). [Read more.](#)

CHANGE IN MAMMOGRAPHY RULES DRAWS A BARRAGE OF CRITICISM

The possibility of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) raising the age for biennial breast cancer screening by means of mammography to 50 years, as is done by the Unified Health System (SUS), provoked protests from medical entities and generated controversy on social media, with criticism from women who have had the disease — among them, TV presenter Ana Furtado. For this reason, ANS opened a public consultation, which ended on Thursday, to hear from sectors of society on the subject. In addition, the Attorney General's Office demanded clarification. In a note to Correio Braziliense newspaper, the agency emphasizes that the proposal does not prohibit mammograms for women in their 40s. The idea, according to the agency, is to encourage health plans to seek out beneficiaries over 50 years old so that they can undergo annual screening. According to ANS, the rule currently in force is maintained. [Read more.](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

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