

WEEKLY REPORT



05/31/2025

DELAY IN REGULATORY AGENCY HEARINGS WORRIES PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES; HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES REMAIN SILENT

The National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) and the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) are waiting for the Senate to hear the nominees for their boards. The expectation is that the president of the house, Davi Alcolumbre, will schedule the regulatory agency hearings for the first half of June, ending the wait of more than five months. Sources heard by Futuro da Saúde state that, for Congress, the topic is not a priority compared to other agendas. Negotiations between members of Congress and the Lula government on other fronts are also hindering the definition of dates. One of them is the bill that modifies the rules on environmental licensing, approved on the 21st and sent to the Chamber of Deputies. In the health sector, health insurance companies do not show any concern about the matter. The arguments include the normality of the ANS's work, the presence of an interim CEO and the fear of the impact of the appointment of Wadih Damous (PT) to the agency's top position. When contacted, the Brazilian Association of Health Plans (Abramge) declined to comment. Alexandre Fioranelli, then director of DIPRO, ended his term last Sunday, the 25th. The following day, the ANS Board of Directors decided that interim CEO Carla Soares will temporarily take over the DIPRO board. In decisions, her vote will be counted only once. On the pharmaceutical industry's side, there is concern about vacancies in positions at Anvisa, along with a lack of incentives for the agency to operate. There is also fear that the agency's agenda will be blocked by the departure of Danitza Passamai Rojas, scheduled for June, and the lack of a list of three candidates to indicate a new replacement, while the new directors are not interviewed. "We have had two-fifths of Anvisa's directors for six months. Can the government afford to, in an agency that oversees 25% of the country's GDP, spend so much time discussing whether to appoint so-and-so or so-and-so B for the sake of mere political negotiations?" asks Nelson Mussolini, executive president of the Pharmaceutical Industry Union (Sindusfarma). [Read more.](#)

HEALTHCARE FOR WOMEN IN MENOPAUSE IS THE SUBJECT OF REQUESTS APPROVED BY THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

On Wednesday (28), the Health Committee approved Requests No. 133/2025 and No. 134/2025, both sponsored by Congressman Romero Rodrigues (PODE-PB), aimed at expanding public policies for women in menopause. Request No. 133/2025 suggests that the Ministry of Health prioritize funding and expand comprehensive health care and quality of life programs for this population. The congressman highlighted that approximately 30 million Brazilian women are in the climacteric and menopause phase, representing 7.9% of the female population. Request No. 134/2025 proposes holding a public hearing to discuss the National Policy for Comprehensive Health Care and Quality of Life for Women in Menopause, focusing on the challenges and paths for its implementation. The objective is to promote dialogue between experts, representatives of the government and civil society, in order to develop concrete guidelines, share good practices and propose improvements to the policy. [Read more.](#)

'NOW THERE ARE SPECIALISTS': BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES NAME AND RELAUNCHES PROGRAM TO REDUCE QUEUES IN THE SUS

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed a provisional measure this Friday to expand specialized care in the Unified Health System (SUS). In practice, the act relaunches the 'More Access to Specialists' program in 2024, renamed 'Now There Are Specialists', after a year

without significant results from the policy. The idea is for the ministry to refer patients to private clinics and hospitals, which will receive in return the possibility of paying off debts with the federal government. As reported by O GLOBO earlier, the MP foresees two types of contracting of private hospitals: through services listed in the SUS and through debt exchange. The latter will have a ceiling of R\$2 billion per year. In the first modality, hospitals will be contracted to perform services offered by the SUS in the areas of ophthalmology, cardiology, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics, gynecology, and oncology. Payment and provision of services will be based on the SUS table. The second modality is the exchange of hospital debt for the provision of services to the government. Today, the debt is estimated at R\$70 billion. For this modality, the government has set a ceiling of R\$2 billion per year. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS FOR NATIONAL PRODUCTION OF VACCINES AGAINST DISEASES SUCH AS COVID-19 AND ZIKA

During the Plenary of the Executive Group of the Health Economic-Industrial Complex (Geceis), this Thursday (29/5), in Brasília, the Minister of Health, Alexandre Padilha, announced the strengthening of partnerships with institutions of excellence for the development of cutting-edge technologies. Padilha stated that Fiocruz and the Butantan Institute - to which R\$150 million from the New PAC Health program are earmarked - and Embrapii - which will have R\$60 million to create centers of competence - will work in partnership with the Ministry to enable the national production of vaccines with messenger RNA (mRNA). One of the greatest innovations in biomedicine, these vaccines will be used to treat diseases such as COVID-19, leishmaniasis, cancer, influenza, Zika, chikungunya and respiratory diseases caused by respiratory syncytial virus. On the occasion, Alexandre Padilha also signed two executive orders authorizing 29 projects to expand local production capacity for medicines and the development of new technologies for vaccines, tests, medical equipment, and digital health. The proposals were selected through the Partnerships for Productive Development (PDP) program and the Local Development and Innovation Program (Pdli). [Read more.](#)

JUDICIALIZATION REPRESENTS A THIRD OF STATE SPENDING ON MEDICINES

Of the total spending by Brazilian states on medicines in 2023, on average one third (32.9%) occurred due to court decisions. The data are part of the Pharmaceutical Assistance Survey in the Unified Health System (SUS), released this Tuesday (27) by the Institute of Applied Economic Research (Ipea). The survey was conducted in technical cooperation with the National Council of Municipal Health Departments (Conasems) and the National Council of Health Secretaries (Conass). Health managers from 25 states, including the Federal District, and 1,865 municipalities were interviewed. All states recorded expenditures of this type on medicines, as did 58.7% of municipalities (total of 1,904). The frequency of municipalities with judicialized medication supply was higher in the Central-West (80.5%), Southeast (73.3%) and South (57.6%) regions, and lower in the North (49%) and Northeast (46.3%) regions. According to the National Council of Justice (CNJ), last year, there were 162,046 new cases related to public health in the first instance of the judiciary. This number was 76,836 in 2020, an increase of 110.9%. Another reference is data from Siga Brasil, a public access system that contains information on the budgetary and financial execution of the Union. In 2024, the Ministry of Health had expenses of R\$3.2 billion related to legal demands for medicines. For Ipea researchers, this reality makes it difficult to plan pharmaceutical assistance and compromises the budget for purchasing medicines, which reduces the financial availability to supply medicines to the entire population. [Read more.](#)

ANS TECHNICIANS CELEBRATE BRAKE ON REGULATORY SANDBOX

Technicians from the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) exchanged hugs and celebrated last Friday (23/5) the suspension of the analysis of the regulatory sandbox, which aimed at implementing simplified plans (only consultations and exams), announced at a meeting by the collegiate board. This is because the employees feared that the proposal would be approved even after intense questioning from civil society and part of the market, since the Federal Court had denied a request for a preliminary injunction made by the Brazilian Institute

for Consumer Protection (IDEC) to suspend deliberations on the subject. "We see the re-discussion of the topic as positive," the Association of ANS Employees and other Workers (Assetans) informed JOTA. [Read more](#).

BILL ON SALE OF MEDICINES IN SUPERMARKETS RECEIVES CRITICISM FROM RAPPORTEUR AND JURIST

The first public hearing held by the Senate's Social Affairs Committee (CAS) this Tuesday (5/27), to debate Bill (PL) 2158/2023, which allows the sale and dispensing of over-the-counter medicines by supermarkets with a pharmacist, was attended by actors in favor and against the project, in addition to criticism from the rapporteur of the matter, Senator Humberto Costa (PT-PE). Organizations supporting the bill emphasized that the measure could increase the population's access to medicines, in addition to reducing their prices, while maintaining product safety. "We advocate a change in the current text to require the presence of a pharmacist in markets that intend to sell these medicines. We believe that this is essential," said Maurício Ungari da Costa, representative of the Brazilian Association of Supermarkets (Abras). [Read more](#).

BRAZILIAN PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET IS THE 4TH MOST COMPETITIVE

The Brazilian pharmaceutical market is one of the most competitive in Latin America, according to a survey by BI consultancy Pugatch Concilium. According to the study, the country is the fourth most competitive in this regard but still has shortcomings in other areas. The study established a metric to determine the percentage of competitiveness of each market. The indicator measures variables such as scientific and clinical research capacity, the regulatory system, market access and intellectual property protection. Feedback from industry executives guided the calculations. The information is from Futuro da Saúde. [Read more](#).

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

[The Lancet warns of trafficking of obesity drugs in Brazil](#)

[Lack of high-cost medication for multiple sclerosis in the SUS worries patients](#)

[Farmácia Popular will send reminders about continuous-use medications](#)

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