

# WEEKLY REPORT



08/23/2025

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## **SEMINAR DEBATES MENOPAUSE AND WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICIES IN BRAZIL**

On Wednesday (20), Jota held the event "*Menopause on the Health Agenda*", sponsored by Astellas, bringing together specialists and journalists to discuss challenges, advances, and public policies in women's health, with a focus on menopause and climacteric. The first panel highlighted the lack of medical preparedness, the need for tailored treatments, and the economic and social impact of neglected care. Nilson Roberto de Melo, president of SOBRAC, warned that symptoms such as insomnia and hot flashes compromise productivity and quality of life, while untreated conditions increase risks of diseases like osteoporosis and dementia. Journalist Mariliz Pereira Jorge, cofounder of the *Menotalks* podcast, stressed the need to fight stigma, expand access to therapies, and incorporate preventive care from age 35. In the second panel, Renata Souza Reis, from the Ministry of Health, outlined updates to the National Policy on Comprehensive Women's Health Care, including new training for primary care professionals and the revision of the Climatério Manual. She pointed to persistent challenges such as regional inequalities, cultural barriers, and delays in incorporating new drugs into SUS. Melo criticized the limited therapeutic options available, the slow pace of regulatory approvals, and the persistence of unsafe practices such as "beauty chips." The debate reinforced the call for more comprehensive, evidence-based care and for menopause to be recognized as a priority in women's health policies. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL'S SENATE PLENARY CONFIRMS LEANDRO SAFATLE AS ANVISA PRESIDENT AND APPROVES TWO DIRECTORS**

The Senate plenary confirmed, on Tuesday (August 19), the nomination of economist Leandro Pinheiro Safatle as president-director of Brazil's National Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), with 54 votes in favor and only two against. Safatle had already been approved by the Senate Social Affairs Committee (CAS) on August 13, based on a report from Senator Mara Gabrilli (MSF 91/2024). Safatle replaces Antônio Barra Torres, whose term ended in December 2024. He holds a degree in economics from the University of Brasília and has served as a consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), and the UN Development Program (Pnud). He has been a federal public servant since 2011, having worked at Anvisa, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), and now serving as Deputy Secretary of Science, Technology, and Innovation and the Health Economic-Industrial Complex at the Ministry of Health. The Senate plenary also approved two nominations for Anvisa's board. Daniela Marreco had 59 votes in favor and one abstention. The new director is a biologist with a specialization in public health from Fiocruz and currently serves as the executive secretary of the Drug Market Regulation Chamber (CMED) at Anvisa. Thiago Campos was approved with 49 votes in favor and five against. He holds a law degree with specializations in business management, health policy management, and health law. He is currently the head of the legal advisory office at the Brazilian Hospital Services Company (Ebserh) and a full member of the Bahia State Health Council. [Read more.](#)

## **ANVISA STAFF PROTEST AGAINST HIRING OF 500 TEMPORARY WORKERS IN BRAZIL**

Employees of Brazil's Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) held a protest this Thursday (Aug 21) in front of the agency's headquarters against the decision to authorize the hiring of 500

temporary professionals to perform functions typically assigned to career regulation specialists, reported Correio Braziliense. The demonstration was organized by the National Union of Regulatory Agency Employees (Sinagências) and the Association of Anvisa Employees (Univisa). According to the entities, the measure does not address the structural staff shortage at the agency and could compromise the quality of health regulation. A study by Dieese, commissioned by Sinagências, estimates that temporary contracts will cost R\$ 305.8 million over five years – enough, they argue, to hire 194 permanent staff members. Anvisa currently faces a shrinking workforce: there are 119 vacant positions, and 387 employees are expected to retire by 2029 – about 25% of the current staff. If confirmed, the agency would have only 1,150 active employees by the end of the decade, less than half the workforce it had in 2007.

[Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL CONSIDERS CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENTS WITH PHARMA INDUSTRY TO SECURE BETTER DRUG PRICES**

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha announced that the government is evaluating confidential agreements with the pharmaceutical industry for the acquisition of medicines for the Unified Health System (SUS), according to Futuro da Saúde. The statement was made last week during the Esfera Brasil event, in Brasília. The measure could allow for more advantageous offers, since confidentiality would be limited to the industry, the Executive, and the Federal Court of Accounts (TCU), enabling better negotiations. This would represent a shift from the current public procurement model, which requires transparency. For now, discussions remain at an early stage. According to Mozart Sales, Secretary of Specialized Health Care, talks have already started with Grupo Farma Brasil and Interfarma in search of alternatives. The ministry is also considering the Pan-American Health Organization's (PAHO) revolving fund to access high-cost medicines. In a statement, the Ministry confirmed that it is studying improvements to procurement and management processes. The TCU, however, said no formal process has been opened, with only a preliminary meeting being held so far. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZILIAN SENATE CONFIRMS WADIH DAMOUS AS ANS PRESIDENT**

The Brazilian Senate confirmed Wadih Nemer Damous Filho as president of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) on Tuesday (August 19), with 38 votes in favor and 20 against. The ANS, tied to the Ministry of Health, regulates the private health insurance market and consists of four directors and a director-president serving nonoverlapping five-year terms. Wadih Damous is currently Brazil's National Consumer Secretary. He succeeds Paulo Roberto Vanderlei Rebello Filho, whose mandate ended in December 2024. During his confirmation process, Damous emphasized the need for integration between SUS and private health plans—such as shared test results—to prevent duplication and waste, and pledged to strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Health to benefit Brazilian citizens. The Brazilian Senate has confirmed Lenise Barcellos de Mello Secchin as a director of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) this Wednesday (August 20), with 54 votes in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention. The nomination comes following the end of the previous term held by Alexandre Fioranelli and was formally proposed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL CHALLENGES LEGITIMACY OF US TRADE PROBE, URGES DIALOGUE**

Brazil submitted its formal response to a U.S. trade investigation on Monday, rejecting the allegations while challenging the legitimacy of the probe itself. While calling for "constructive dialogue," the Brazilian government stated that it does not recognize Washington's authority to launch the unilateral investigation. The probe, initiated in July under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, aims to determine whether Brazil's policies on digital trade and tariffs are "unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or restrict" U.S. commerce, according to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. This action adds to growing friction between the two countries, including 50% tariffs imposed by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump on imports of Brazilian goods and U.S. sanctions targeting a Brazilian Supreme Court justice. In its 91-page response, Brazil refuted U.S. arguments concerning its trade practices, including its ethanol market and the popular digital payment system, Pix. The government argued Brazil's

acts, policies and practices are not unreasonable, discriminatory, or burdensome to U.S. commerce. Brasilia also objected to the investigation taking place outside the legal framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The government has already requested consultations at the WTO over the U.S. tariffs. [Read more.](#)

## **WHAT BRAZIL'S RESPONSE TO THE US HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

On Monday evening (18), Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted its formal response to the trade investigation launched by the United States over alleged unfair and anti-American practices. Since announcing the action through the US Trade Representative (USTR), President Donald Trump has repeatedly stated that Brazil has been a bad partner for his country. In its response, the Brazilian government rejected this assessment and reaffirmed "Brazil's commitment to its strategic partnership with the United States and to fair and open trade," stressing that the country "chooses to engage constructively in this process." On intellectual property, the Brazilian authorities sought to align domestic initiatives with internationally consolidated practices, such as the WTO's TRIPS Agreement. The response highlighted recent measures, including the modernization of regulations at the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), the use of digital tools, a reduction in the patent backlog, adherence to international treaties such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the Madrid Protocol for trademarks, as well as active cooperation with the US on intellectual property projects. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH SPENDS R\$2.7 BILLION ON COURT-ORDERED MEDICINES, WARNS OF ESCALATING COSTS**

The Brazilian Ministry of Health spent R\$2.73 billion in 2024 to supply medicines through court orders, raising concerns within the Lula administration over the exponential growth of these expenses. Data obtained via the Freedom of Information Law show that spending has risen sharply: from R\$1.8 billion in 2022 to R\$2.24 billion in 2023, and R\$2.73 billion in 2024—a 50% increase in just two years. Nearly half of the spending is concentrated on only five drugs. One of the costliest is elevidys, a gene therapy for children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which costs R\$14.6 million per patient. Although Anvisa suspended the product's registration in July due to safety concerns, the Ministry remains obligated to purchase it under judicial orders. Officials estimate that supplying the drug to the 213 patients with active lawsuits would cost around R\$3 billion. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL LAUNCHES AI PROJECT TO ACCELERATE HEALTH-RELATED LAWSUITS**

The judicialization of health in Brazil continues to grow, with more than 900,000 pending cases as of June 2025, according to the National Council of Justice (CNJ). To address this challenge, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics at USP have launched a project that applies artificial intelligence to streamline demands. The initiative aims to automate up to 80% of health-related cases, speeding up case triage and supporting decision-making. The tool will rely on AWS's data analysis infrastructure and the expertise of USP's data engineers. By cross-checking public databases, the system will classify lawsuits according to urgency, analyze clinical and legal evidence, and serve as a virtual assistant to magistrates, trained to answer questions and provide insights. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL'S CONITEC REJECTS GLP-1 WEIGHT-LOSS PENS (LIRAGLUTIDE AND SEMAGLUTIDE) FROM SUS**

The National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies into the SUS (Conitec) has recommended against including GLP-1 agonists—specifically liraglutide and semaglutide (medications such as Saxenda and Wegovy)—in Brazil's public health system, citing high costs and the need for specialized monitoring. The request for incorporation was submitted by Novo Nordisk, manufacturer of Wegovy, but Conitec concluded that the medications' financial burden and logistical complexity outweigh their potential benefits for public coverage. [Read more.](#)

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS

[Representative proposes including new guests at hearing on menopause](#)

[Congressman Max Lemos proposes mandatory free hormone replacement therapy through the SUS for menopausal women](#)

[Bill aims to create the National Policy for Awareness and Information on Climacteric and Menopause presented in Rio de Janeiro](#)

[Public hearing discusses the urgency of access to medication for Friedreich's Ataxia](#)

## BRAZIL NEWS

[US accepts Brazil's WTO consultation request over tariffs](#)

[Brazil's Supreme Court exempts citizens from foreign legal decisions amid spat with US](#)

[Judge in US crosshairs warns Brazil banks not to apply sanctions locally](#)

[Brazil judge targeted by US sanctions confident of Trump reversal](#)

[Banco do Brasil ready to handle 'complex' issues amid debate over US sanctions](#)

[Brazil brushes off UN call for hotel subsidy in tense COP30 talks](#)

[Brazilian energy auction for hydro plants to generate \\$1 billion in investments](#)

[Brazil agencies clash over soy moratorium, raising risks for traders](#)

[Brazil central bank still assessing if 15% interest rate is appropriate, says official](#)

[Brazil GDP proxy dips in June on weaker farming sector](#)