

WEEKLY REPORT



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BRAZIL'S HEALTH STRATEGY FOR 2026 FOCUSES ON MOBILE CARE UNITS AND DENGUE VACCINATION ROLLOUT

Health sector observers outline Brazil's emerging healthcare agenda for 2026 under Health Minister Alexandre Padilha, highlighting the expansion of mobile healthcare units and the anticipated rollout of dengue vaccination campaigns as key strategic pillars. Padilha has publicly indicated his intention to remain in office through the end of President Lula's term, though some analysts suggest political shifts could occur by April 2026. The article on Jota newspaper notes the ongoing deployment of mobile units, with about 40 currently operational and plans to expand to 150 by year's end, providing preventive and basic health services such as screenings and simple procedures in underserved municipalities. Alongside these mobile units, Brazil is preparing for a broad dengue immunization effort in 2026. Early implementation is anticipated in selected municipalities, targeting adults and eventually expanding nationwide, building on recent vaccine approvals and production partnerships. Analysts cited in the commentary underscore the potential political and public health impacts of these initiatives, noting that both enhanced accessibility through mobile services and introduction of new dengue vaccines could strengthen the Unified Health System (SUS) response to persistent health challenges and contribute to broader health equity goals. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL PLANS FIRST SMART PUBLIC HOSPITAL WITH ADVANCED DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The federal government has unveiled plans to build the first smart public hospital in Brazil as part of the National Network of Intelligent Hospitals and Services under the Unified Health System (SUS). Announced on 7 January 2026 during a ceremony at the Palácio do Planalto, the initiative was formalized with the signing of a financing agreement worth approximately R\$ 1.7 billion with the New Development Bank (NDB), the multilateral development bank of the BRICS. The new facility — the Technological Institute of Intelligent Medicine (ITMI-Brazil) — will be located in the Hospital das Clínicas complex of the University of São Paulo (USP) and is expected to become a national reference in digital health care. According to the Ministry of Health, the hospital will feature innovative technologies including artificial intelligence, 5G-connected ambulances, telehealth services, and fully integrated digital systems to optimize clinical workflows, electronic medical records, and patient monitoring. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR INTELLIGENT HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES DURING AI IN HOSPITALS EVENT

Speaking at an event on artificial intelligence (AI) in hospitals on 7 January 2026, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva underscored the potential of intelligent health technologies to improve patient care. During his remarks, the president referenced a personal experience after a head injury, saying he hopes to see "smart things" implemented in Brazil, particularly citing the need for enhanced diagnostics and efficiency in health services. The event brought together health officials, technologists, and hospital administrators to discuss the integration of AI solutions in clinical settings. The discussion highlighted how AI and digital tools could support clinical decision-making, optimize hospital workflows, and reduce waiting times in the Unified Health System (SUS), aligning with broader government interest in modernizing public healthcare infrastructure. While concrete implementation plans were not detailed, Lula's remarks reaffirm political support for innovation in health technology. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S CMED LAUNCHES PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PRICING CRITERIA FOR JUDICIAL DRUG SUPPLY

Brazil's Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED) has opened Public Consultation No. 1/2026 to gather contributions on proposed criteria for setting and adjusting prices of medicines supplied to the public administration in response to court-ordered health demands. The initiative seeks input from civil society, healthcare professionals, and industry stakeholders through an online consultation process. The draft resolution addresses growing distortions caused by the judicialization of healthcare, particularly involving high-cost medicines, which have significantly pressured public budgets and disrupted health policy planning. According to the regulator, the current dynamics have contributed to inefficiencies in public spending and widened inequities in access within the Unified Health System (SUS). The proposal aligns regulatory pricing mechanisms with recent jurisprudence of the Federal Supreme Court, notably Theme 1234, and aims to strengthen predictability, transparency and sustainability in the execution of court rulings related to pharmaceutical supply. The consultation remains open for 60 days, allowing stakeholders to submit technical and legal contributions. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S NEW REGULATORY FRAMEWORK BOOSTS CLINICAL RESEARCH AND ATTRACTS INVESTMENT

After years of legislative debate, Brazil's Law No. 14,874/2024, known as the Clinical Research Statute, is beginning to reshape the country's clinical research landscape by providing legal certainty, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and attracting renewed interest from industry and scientific centers. The law, regulated in October 2025, aims to streamline the approval and conduct of clinical trials involving human subjects, helping Brazil to participate more fully in early-phase research on new medicines, vaccines, and therapies. Historically, regulatory complexity had limited Brazil's role predominantly to later-stage studies, but the updated framework is expected to increase the volume and quality of trials conducted domestically. Institutions such as Hospital Mãe de Deus in Porto Alegre are already preparing dedicated research infrastructure, with plans to manage up to 50 simultaneous study protocols involving around 600 patients over the next four years. By fostering a more predictable and less cumbersome regulatory environment, the new law is seen as a key factor in attracting pharmaceutical and biotechnology investment, strengthening Brazil's scientific ecosystem, and enhancing opportunities for innovation in health. Observers note that broader participation in global clinical research could also raise Brazil's profile as a research destination, expand patient access to innovative experimental therapies and support long-term economic development in the biotech sector. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAUNCHES PUBLIC CALLS TO STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR SUS

Brazil's Ministry of Health has launched three public calls to support strategic and innovative research aimed at bolstering the national Unified Health System (SUS) and the country's scientific production. The initiative, developed in partnership with the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), allocates R\$ 57 million to proposals in areas such as advanced therapies, nucleic acid-based technologies, innovative vaccines, and women's health research. Submissions from qualified researchers are open until 23 February 2026. The public calls are structured to drive research that can be translated into tangible health system impacts, including enhancing equity, inclusion, territorialization and cross-sector cooperation. One call focuses on R\$ 12 million for vaccine innovation and platform technologies to prepare for endemic and emerging diseases, while another earmarks R\$ 30 million for advanced therapies and precision health solutions. A third call dedicates R\$ 15 million to research on women's health, including cancer and maternal mortality, with emphasis on diagnostics, access, and care quality. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH DEFINES FEDERAL TRANSFERS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE IN 2026 BASED ON POPULATION UPDATE

Brazil's Ministry of Health has published Ordinance GM/MS nº 9.887/2025, setting federal transfers for the Basic Component of Pharmaceutical Assistance (CBAF) in 2026, calculated according to updated population estimates and municipal development indicators. The annual value totals R\$ 1.78 billion, to be transferred monthly from the National Health Fund (FNS) to state and municipal health funds, providing predictability for the planning and purchase of essential medicines and inputs at the primary care level. The updated repasses reflect an R\$ 80 million increase compared to 2025 and aim to expand access to essential medications while strengthening service provision across the Unified Health System (SUS). A key provision protects municipalities experiencing demographic decline by maintaining their nominal 2025 funding levels, preventing budget reductions that could compromise pharmaceutical supply continuity. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S HEALTH SECTOR FACES UNEVEN RECOVERY AND COST, OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AFTER RECORD PROFITS IN 2025

After Brazil's health sector posted record profitability in 2025, driven by resilient demand in private medical plans and improved operational results for some operators, industry analysts say 2026 will test structural balance and execution discipline across the market. According to financial sector observers, the operating environment showed stronger fundamentals than initially feared amid regulatory and macroeconomic uncertainties, but the benefits of higher sector profits were unevenly distributed and exposed operational vulnerabilities in certain companies. While large hospital networks such as Rede D'Or São Luiz outperformed peers with revenue growth, margin expansion and robust cash generation, other operators faced cost pressures, increasing litigation expenses and weaker beneficiary dynamics, prompting strategic resets, particularly where execution challenges and integration issues weighed on results. This divergence underscores the need for cost discipline and consistent governance as key performance differentiators in 2026's competitive landscape. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS URGED TO PREPARE FOR AGING POPULATION, EXPERTS SAY

Experts are calling on Brazil's private health insurance sector to adapt its products and services to meet the challenges posed by the country's aging population, as consumers increasingly raise concerns about access, pricing, and care continuity. According to industry leaders and consumer advocates, demographic shifts with a growing share of older adults will require plans to integrate technological solutions and care models that address chronic disease management and long-term needs without compromising beneficiary protections. Executives from major associations such as Fenasaúde and Abramge emphasize that sustainability will depend on risk management, preventive care strategies and tailored services that respond to longevity trends while preserving affordability and quality of care. Consumer advocates caution that without structural adjustments, smaller and medium-sized operators may face financial strain that could erode care networks, particularly for older clients with complex health needs, and stress the importance of regulatory and judicial guidance to balance economic pressures with beneficiary rights. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS SET TO REACH RECORD 53.4 MILLION BENEFICIARIES IN 2026

Brazil's supplementary health sector is projected to reach an all-time high of 53.4 million beneficiaries in the medical-hospital segment by the end of 2026, according to estimates from the FenaSaúde reported by Folha de S.Paulo columnist Mônica Bergamo. If confirmed, this would exceed previous peaks in the series dating back to 2000, reflecting sustained expansion in private coverage amid an improving labor market and continued demand for supplemental medical services. FenaSaúde attributes the growth to broader employment gains, which often correlate with increased access to employer-sponsored health plans, and to intensified anti-fraud efforts that enhance sector efficiency and pricing stability. The entity's director-executive, Bruno Sobral, highlighted that improved operational controls, including audits and fraud

prevention, have contributed to better resource allocation and encouraged uptake in private coverage. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S DENTAL-ONLY HEALTH PLANS REACH 35.4 MILLION BENEFICIARIES IN NOVEMBER 2025

Brazil's National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) has released sector data showing that the number of beneficiaries in exclusive dental health plans reached 35.377.783 in November 2025, marking sustained growth in the segment. The increase of 1.114.948 beneficiaries compared with November 2024 underscores the continued expansion of supplementary dental coverage in Brazil's private health market. Meanwhile, medical-hospital health plans reported 53.148.999 beneficiaries in the same period. According to the ANS, dental-only plans also saw a notable month-to-month gain, with 339.963 new beneficiaries added between October and November 2025, reflecting stronger momentum in this segment than in medical plans. State-level data show that São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Paraná led absolute increases in dental coverage, while the Federal District recorded the highest relative growth rate year-over-year. Analysts attribute the segment's resilience to factors such as favorable cost-benefit dynamics, broader employment-linked corporate adoption and the relatively lower price point of dental plans compared with full health coverage. As the dental insurance base pushes past historic highs, the trend highlights the strategic importance of oral health access within Brazil's broader supplementary health ecosystem. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CUTS ICU INFECTIONS BY 26% AND SAVES R\$ 151 MILLION FOR SUS

A quality improvement project coordinated by Brazil's Ministry of Health in partnership with Proadi-SUS hospitals has achieved a 26 % reduction in healthcare-associated infections in intensive care units (ICUs) across 285 public hospitals over two years, resulting in an estimated R\$ 151 million saving for the Unified Health System (SUS). The initiative, currently in its third edition, focuses on systematic process revisions and rigorous adherence to infection-prevention protocols without requiring additional spending by participating units. Known as the "Saúde em Nossas Mão" project, it engages five private philanthropic institutions — Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Hospital Alemão Oswaldo Cruz, Hospital Moinhos de Vento, HCor and Beneficência Portuguesa de São Paulo — in training public hospital teams to implement evidence-based practices targeting common ICU infections such as central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI). Comprehensive process checks, device management, and clinical care steps form the core of the intervention. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH ISSUES CALL TO TRAIN POPULAR HEALTH AGENTS ACROSS 17 STATES

Brazil's Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Brazilian Agency for Support to SUS Management (AgSUS), has launched a new public call to select popular social movements for the training of Popular Health Agents under the Popular Health Educators and Educator Training Program (AgPopSUS). The call, open until 18 January 2026, aims to form 450 class groups across 17 states, enabling up to 9,000 participants to participate in community health education and promotion activities. The program provides monthly stipends of R\$ 2,500 for educators and R\$ 560 for learners to help cover transportation and other course-related expenses. Each class will comprise one educator and 20 students, focusing on strengthening community engagement, health promotion, and defense of the Unified Health System (SUS) in territories with high social vulnerability. According to Felipe Proenço, Secretary of Labor and Health Education, the initiative reinforces popular participation in shaping and safeguarding SUS, recognizing the knowledge and practices of community leaders. Luciana Maciel, Director of Comprehensive Health Care at AgSUS, noted that the training will qualify participants to work with their communities to promote health rights and equity, expanding a national network of popular health agents committed to health education and social mobilization. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL'S FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEGINS PAYMENT OF PERMANENCE BONUS TO MAIS MÉDICOS PROFESSIONALS

The federal government has started the payment of a permanence bonus to doctors participating in the Mais Médicos program who have worked 48 consecutive months in areas of high vulnerability since the initiative's 2023 relaunch. Regulated by the Ministry of Health under Law No. 14.621/2023, the bonus aims to recognize continued service in remote and underserved locations and to strengthen stability in primary health care provision. In 2026, up to R\$ 288 million is earmarked for bonus payments that could benefit around 12 000 professionals, with additional amounts proportional to the accumulated four years of service. The bonus is calculated as 10 % to 20 % of the current monthly grant of R\$ 12,426, and doctors who entered the program via the Student Financing Fund (FIES) may receive up to 80 % of the total value after four years in designated territories. [Read more](#).

BRAZIL TO DONATE 100 TONS OF MEDICINES AND HEALTH SUPPLIES TO VENEZUELA AFTER DISTRIBUTION CENTRE DESTROYED

Brazil's Ministry of Health has announced that the federal government will send 100 tonnes of medicines and other health supplies to Venezuela to support that country's health system after the destruction of its largest medical distribution centre in early January. The announcement, made on 8 January 2026, frames the shipment as a humanitarian solidarity effort to help Venezuelan patients, particularly those dependent on continuous treatments such as hemodialysis, amid severe supply disruption. In the first stage of the initiative, 40 tonnes of medicines and supplies will be dispatched starting 9 January, with priority given to roughly 16 000 patients in need of renal care. According to Minister Alexandre Padilha, the donation will not compromise the Brazilian public health system's capacity, as the Unified Health System (SUS) maintains secure stocks for domestic needs. The items being sent were collected through donations from university and philanthropic hospitals and include continuous-use medications, dialysis filters, catheters, and vascular lines. [Read more](#).

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