WEEKLY REPORT

06/20/2026

INPI PRESIDENT REJECTS PROPOSALS TO EXTEND PATENT TERMS IN BRAZIL

The president of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Júlio César Moreira, said mechanisms to extend patent terms in Brazil are "neither applicable nor desirable," rejecting proposals currently under discussion in Congress that would compensate patent holders for delays in patent examination. In an interview with Futuro da Saúde, Moreira argued that revisiting the issue is inappropriate following the 2021 Supreme Federal Court (STF) ruling that struck down the automatic patent term extension provision previously included in Brazil's Industrial Property Law. According to Moreira, the INPI has significantly reduced patent examination times and is working to lower the average review period to two years through measures such as artificial intelligence tools, automation, and outsourced patent searches. The institute currently reports average examination times of 4.3 years overall and 4.6 years for health-related patents. The debate over patent term adjustments has intensified in recent months as lawmakers consider proposals aimed at compensating innovators for administrative delays, a measure opposed by public health groups and domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers. Read more.

HEALTH MINISTRY WARNS PATENT EXTENSION BILL COULD ADD BRL 3 BILLION TO SUS COSTS

Technical staff at the Ministry of Health estimate that legislation under discussion in Congress that would extend patent terms to compensate for delays in patent examination could increase public spending on medicines by more than BRL 3 billion. The assessment was presented during debates on Bill PLP 32/2026, which would allow patent holders to receive up to five additional years of protection in cases of administrative delays not attributable to the applicant. According to the ministry, the estimate was based on four high-cost medicines currently purchased by the Unified Health System (SUS). Health officials argue that extending exclusivity periods could delay the entry of generic and biosimilar competitors, increasing procurement costs and creating additional budgetary pressure on the public health system. Supporters of the proposal, including research-based pharmaceutical industry representatives, argue that the measure would strengthen legal certainty and align Brazil with international intellectual property protection practices. Read more.

ANVISA AUTHORIZES CRISTÁLIA TO MANUFACTURE WEIGHT-LOSS INJECTION PENS

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) authorized Cristália to manufacture injectable weight-loss pens containing liraglutide, marking the company's entry into Brazil's rapidly growing market for obesity treatments. The authorization covers production of the active pharmaceutical ingredient and the finished product at the company's facilities in Brazil. According to Cristália, the approval is part of a broader strategy to expand domestic production of complex medicines and reduce dependence on imports. The company expects the product to increase access to obesity treatments in Brazil, as demand for GLP-1-based therapies continues to rise. The authorization also strengthens Brazil's local manufacturing capacity in a market that has seen significant growth driven by new therapies for obesity and diabetes. Read more.

FIRST BRAZILIAN-MADE SEMAGLUTIDE REACHES THE MARKET

EMS has begun commercializing Olzivia, the first semaglutide produced in Brazil, marking the entry of a domestically manufactured alternative into the rapidly growing market for GLP-1 therapies used to treat obesity and type 2 diabetes. The launch follows regulatory approval and comes amid increasing competition in a segment historically dominated by Novo Nordisk products. The company expects the product to expand access to semaglutide treatment by increasing supply and offering a locally manufactured option. The launch is also seen as a milestone for Brazil's pharmaceutical industry, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen domestic production capabilities for complex medicines and reduce dependence on imported products. Read more.

NOVO NORDISK CHALLENGES EMS OVER BRANDING OF SEMAGLUTIDE PRODUCT

Novo Nordisk has filed a complaint seeking to prevent EMS from using the name "Olzivia" for its recently launched semaglutide product, arguing that the brand infringes trademarks associated with Ozempic, one of the company's best-selling medicines. The dispute comes as competition intensifies in Brazil's market for GLP-1 therapies used to treat diabetes and obesity. According to the complaint, Novo Nordisk alleges that the similarity between the names could create confusion among patients and healthcare professionals. EMS rejects the allegations and maintains that its brand complies with applicable intellectual property rules. The case adds a new dimension to the growing competition in Brazil's weight-loss and diabetes treatment market, where domestic manufacturers are increasingly challenging multinational pharmaceutical companies following the expiration of key patents. Read more.

NOVO NORDISK OFFERS SEMAGLUTIDE TO SUS WITH 59% DISCOUNT

Novo Nordisk has proposed supplying semaglutide to Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) at a 59% discount compared with the drug's current factory price, as part of the ongoing assessment of obesity treatments by the National Committee for Health Technology Incorporation (Conitec). The proposal was presented during the public consultation process evaluating the possible incorporation of the drug into the public health system. According to the company, the offer seeks to improve access to treatment for people living with obesity while addressing concerns about the potential budget impact on SUS. The discussion comes as Brazil faces growing demand for obesity care and increasing use of GLP-1 therapies. Conitec is expected to review clinical, economic, and budgetary evidence before issuing a final recommendation on whether semaglutide should be incorporated into the public healthcare system. Read more.

EUROFARMA REDUCES PRICES OF SEMAGLUTIDE PRODUCTS BY UP TO 48%

Eurofarma announced price reductions of up to 48% for its semaglutide-based products Poviztra and Extensior, which are marketed in Brazil through a partnership with Novo Nordisk. The discounts apply to patients enrolled in the EuroCuida support program, launched in April. The largest reduction applies to Extensior 1 mg, indicated for type 2 diabetes, whose price falls from BRL 599 to BRL 309. For Poviztra, indicated for obesity and overweight patients with comorbidities, the largest discount reaches 46%, reducing the price of the 0.5 mg presentation from BRL 819 to BRL 445. Eurofarma said patients beginning treatment with Poviztra may pay as little as BRL 295 per pen through the program. The company states that Extensior is identical to Ozempic, while Poviztra is identical to Wegovy, and that it is currently the only Brazilian pharmaceutical manufacturer with approval from the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) for the treatment of obesity and overweight associated with comorbidities. Read more.

ANVISA UPDATES RULES AND INTRODUCES NEW PATHWAY FOR GMP CERTIFICATION

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) updated its regulatory framework for the issuance of Good Manufacturing Practice Certificates (CBPF), introducing changes aimed at streamlining the petition and review process. The agency said the new rules reorganize regulatory procedures to make certification requests more agile, transparent, and aligned with

international regulatory practices and Anvisa's own marketing authorization processes. The changes were implemented through an amendment to Instruction No. 292/2024 and include a new optional optimized review pathway based on reliance mechanisms and cooperation with equivalent foreign regulatory authorities. According to Anvisa, the measure is expected to improve efficiency in the certification process while maintaining regulatory oversight and compliance with manufacturing quality standards. Read more.

WEIGHT-LOSS PENS BECOME A GROWING TARGET FOR SMUGGLING FROM PARAGUAY

The growing demand for GLP-1 medicines used to treat obesity and diabetes has turned weight-loss injection pens into one of the main products entering Brazil illegally through Paraguay, according to a report by Folha de S.Paulo. Authorities and industry representatives report an increase in seizures of products such as semaglutide and tirzepatide, reflecting both high consumer demand and the price differences between countries. Experts warn that medicines acquired through smuggling channels may be exposed to inadequate storage and transportation conditions, compromising their quality, safety, and effectiveness. The report notes that weight-loss pens have increasingly replaced traditional contraband products in cross-border trade, prompting heightened monitoring by health and customs authorities amid the rapid expansion of the obesity treatment market. Read more.

THEFT DRIVES NEARLY BRL 3 BILLION IN LOSSES FOR BRAZILIAN PHARMACIES

Losses in Brazil's pharmacy sector reached nearly BRL 3 billion in 2025, with theft accounting for the largest share of the total, according to data presented during the Abrappe Fórum 2026. The survey found that losses represented 1.71% of the sector's gross revenue, with external theft responsible for 38.8% of the total and internal theft accounting for an additional 13.7%. The study also identified operational failures, inventory discrepancies, and supplier-related issues among the main causes of losses. According to sector representatives, the findings highlight growing concerns about security, inventory management, and loss prevention strategies in pharmacies, particularly as retailers expand investments in digitalization and omnichannel operations. Read more.

CNJ REVISES HEALTH LITIGATION GUIDELINES AFTER STAKEHOLDER PUSHBACK

The National Council of Justice (CNJ) revised a series of proposed health litigation guidelines after receiving criticism from patient organizations, medical societies, legal experts, and industry representatives during the VIII National Health Forum. Several recommendations were modified or withdrawn before the final vote, particularly those related to judicial claims involving medicines, rare diseases and treatments not incorporated into the Unified Health System (SUS). The debate highlighted tensions between efforts to promote evidence-based judicial decisions and concerns that some proposals could create additional barriers to patient access. Stakeholders argued that the original wording of certain guidelines could restrict judicial discretion and limit access to therapies in exceptional cases. Following consultations, the CNJ adjusted the proposals to reflect contributions from different sectors while maintaining its objective of improving consistency and technical quality in health-related court decisions. Read more.

CNJ LAUNCHES AI TOOL TO SUPPORT HEALTH-RELATED COURT DECISIONS

The National Council of Justice (CNJ) unveiled EvidênciaJud, a new artificial intelligence tool designed to help judges assess health-related cases by identifying and consolidating scientific evidence from specialized databases. The initiative aims to improve the technical foundation of judicial decisions involving treatments, medicines, and healthcare technologies. According to the CNJ, the system will support magistrates in analyzing complex health issues by providing access to scientific evidence and technical information already available in trusted health databases. The tool is part of broader efforts to improve the quality and consistency of decisions in Brazil's growing volume of healthcare litigation and will be integrated into the Judiciary's existing health-related support systems. Read more.

CNJ LAUNCHES TOOL TO STREAMLINE JURISDICTION DECISIONS IN HEALTH LAWSUITS

The National Council of Justice (CNJ) has launched a new public digital tool designed to help courts determine jurisdiction in health-related lawsuits. The initiative aims to reduce procedural delays and improve consistency in cases involving the Unified Health System (SUS), particularly disputes over access to medicines, treatments, and healthcare services. The platform allows judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals to identify the appropriate court based on criteria established by the Supreme Federal Court (STF) and the National Justice Forum for Health (Fonajus). According to the CNJ, the tool is expected to increase legal certainty and efficiency in the handling of healthcare litigation, an area that continues to generate a significant volume of cases across Brazil. Read more.

BILL SEEKS GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF NATJUS TECHNICAL OPINIONS

A bill under discussion in the House of Representatives seeks to provide greater flexibility in the use of technical opinions issued by the Technical Support Centers of the Judiciary (NatJus) in healthcare-related lawsuits. The proposal would allow judges to diverge from NatJus recommendations without the need for additional justification beyond the reasoning already presented in their decisions. Supporters argue that the measure would preserve judicial independence and prevent technical opinions from becoming de facto binding determinations in health litigation. Critics, however, warn that weakening the role of NatJus could reduce the use of scientific and evidence-based assessments in court decisions involving medicines, treatments, and healthcare technologies. The proposal is part of a broader debate over the balance between judicial discretion and technical expertise in Brazil's healthcare litigation system. Read more.

FAMILIES CALL FOR GREATER SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH ATAXIAS

Families of people living with ataxias used a public hearing in the Senate to highlight the challenges faced by patients affected by the rare neurological disorders and to call for stronger public policies, expanded access to specialized care and greater investment in research. Participants reported difficulties obtaining timely diagnoses, accessing multidisciplinary treatment, and securing social support services. Representatives of patient organizations emphasized that ataxias are progressive diseases that can significantly affect mobility, speech, coordination, and quality of life. During the debate, lawmakers and specialists discussed measures to improve care pathways within the Unified Health System (SUS), strengthen professional training, and increase awareness of rare neurological conditions. Participants also defended broader support for scientific research and the development of new therapies aimed at slowing disease progression and improving patient outcomes. Read more.

FAMILIES URGE ANVISA TO CLEAR DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY THERAPY

Families of children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy urged the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) to resume authorization for the gene therapy Elevidys during a public hearing at the House of Representatives. Parents reported improvements in mobility and quality of life among treated patients and argued that delays in the regulatory review are particularly harmful given the progressive nature of the rare disease. Anvisa suspended the sale and use of Elevidys in July 2025 following reports of three deaths linked to liver failure in patients abroad. The agency said it is awaiting additional data from Roche on the therapy's efficacy and long-term follow-up studies before deciding on its future in Brazil. During the hearing, agency representatives emphasized the need to balance patient expectations with evidence on safety and effectiveness, while lawmakers called for greater speed in the review process. Read more.

PATIENTS REPORT BARRIERS TO ACCESSING ZOLGENSMA DESPITE SUS RISK-SHARING AGREEMENT

Families of children with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) report ongoing difficulties accessing Zolgensma through Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS), despite the gene therapy's

incorporation under a pioneering risk-sharing agreement between the Ministry of Health and manufacturer Novartis. Under the arrangement, payment is linked to patient outcomes, making Zolgensma the first therapy in Brazil to be incorporated through this type of model. Patient organizations argue that eligibility criteria, administrative procedures and delays in the treatment pathway continue to limit access to the therapy. The challenges have raised concerns about the implementation of innovative access models in practice, highlighting the need to ensure that patients benefit from therapies once reimbursement and incorporation agreements are in place. Read more.

DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS DEMAND FOR ACCESS TO EXPERIMENTAL THERAPIES FOR RARE DISEASES

Patients, physicians, researchers, and advocacy groups defended broader access to experimental therapies for people living with rare diseases during a public hearing held by the Senate's Human Rights Committee. Participants argued that patients with severe, progressive, and life-threatening conditions often face limited or no therapeutic options and should be allowed to access investigational treatments when approved therapies are unavailable or ineffective. Speakers called for improvements to Brazil's regulatory framework governing compassionate use and expanded access programs, citing delays and barriers that can prevent patients from receiving potentially beneficial treatments. Representatives of patient organizations emphasized the urgency faced by families dealing with rare diseases, while experts stressed the importance of maintaining safeguards related to safety, informed consent, and scientific oversight. The discussion also addressed potential legislative measures aimed at expanding access to innovative therapies while preserving regulatory standards. Read more.

RESEARCHERS AND LAWMAKERS CALL FOR PRIORITY TESTING OF SPINAL CORD INJURY THERAPY

Researchers and members of the House of Representatives called for priority treatment of clinical studies involving polylaminin, an experimental therapy being developed as a potential treatment for spinal cord injuries. During a public hearing, supporters highlighted the technology's potential and urged authorities to accelerate research efforts, while emphasizing the importance of generating robust scientific evidence. Representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) stressed that any expansion of access must be supported by clinical data demonstrating safety and efficacy. Anvisa authorized the first phase of clinical trials in January, with the study expected to evaluate the treatment in five patients with acute spinal cord injuries. The therapy was developed by researchers at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) in partnership with Cristália. Read more.

TELEMEDICINE REMAINS CONCENTRATED IN BRAZIL'S SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST REGIONS

Telemedicine services in Brazil remain heavily concentrated in the South and Southeast regions, highlighting persistent disparities in access to digital healthcare across the country. Data presented by the Brazilian Association of Telemedicine and Digital Health (ABTms) show that most teleconsultations and digital health infrastructure are located in the country's wealthiest regions, while the North and Northeast continue to face challenges related to connectivity, infrastructure, and workforce availability. Experts argue that expanding telemedicine could help address regional inequalities in access to healthcare, particularly in remote and underserved areas. However, they note that broader adoption will require investments in digital infrastructure, professional training, and regulatory stability to ensure that virtual care can complement in-person services and improve access throughout the Unified Health System (SUS). Read more.

HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Ministry of Health has launched a new home care program focused on older adults, aiming to promote healthy aging, prevent functional decline and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations. The initiative will be implemented through Primary Health Care teams and is expected to reach

elderly individuals with greater health and social vulnerabilities across the country. According to the ministry, the program will provide comprehensive assessments, individualized care plans, and home visits by multidisciplinary teams. The initiative is part of broader efforts to adapt Brazil's health system to demographic changes, as the country's elderly population continues to grow and demand for long-term care services increases. Read more.

BRAZIL APPROVES NATIONAL EXAM AS REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICAL LICENSES

The Brazilian Senate approved legislation requiring medical graduates to achieve a minimum score on a new National Medical Proficiency Exam before obtaining professional registration. The proposal, which has already passed the House of Representatives, now awaits presidential sanction. The exam will be mandatory for both graduates of Brazilian medical schools and physicians trained abroad seeking to practice in the country. The assessment will be conducted at least twice a year and will evaluate the knowledge, competencies and professional skills considered essential for medical practice. Supporters argue the measure will help ensure the quality of medical training and patient safety, while medical associations have long advocated for a national evaluation mechanism amid the rapid expansion of medical schools in Brazil. Read more.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Anvisa approves two new biosimilar medicines

Anvisa approves new indication for multiple myeloma treatment

Guide compiles information on rights of people living with rare diseases

BRAZIL NEWS

Brazil´s President Lula maintains poll lead over right-wing Senator Bolsonaro

Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro pitches crime crackdown to boost presidential bid

Brazilian court convicts Eduardo Bolsonaro of seeking US help in father's legal battle

Brazil police target top Lula ally in widening Banco Master lender probe

Lula says Trump must 'stay out' of Brazil elections

Brazil cuts interest rates again, leaves door open for more

Brazil still has room for more interest rate cuts, says finance minister

Brazil yield curve steepens on policy decision seen as dovish

Suspected hacker sends unauthorized alert across Brazil

Ukraine accepts proposal from Brazil's Lula to work for peace, Kyiv adviser says

Apple allows alternative app stores, payments in Brazil after deal with regulator