WEEKLY REPORT

07/18/2026

HYPERA TO LAUNCH FIRST NON-HORMONAL MENOPAUSE TREATMENT IN BRAZIL THROUGH ASTELLAS PARTNERSHIP

Hypera Pharma has announced a partnership with Japan's Astellas Pharma to commercialize fezolinetant, the first non-hormonal treatment approved in Brazil for moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause. Approved by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) in June, the medicine is expected to reach Brazilian pharmacies during the first half of 2027, following the completion of regulatory and operational launch procedures. Fezolinetant offers an alternative to hormone replacement therapy by targeting neurokinin B, a protein involved in the body's temperature regulation. By blocking neurokinin-3 (NK3) receptors in the brain, the therapy reduces the frequency and intensity of hot flashes and night sweats, the most common vasomotor symptoms experienced during menopause. According to Anvisa, clinical studies showed an average 53% reduction in daily hot flashes after four weeks of treatment. The product, marketed internationally under the brand name Veoza, remains under patent protection until 2034. In Brazil, however, it will be commercialized under a different brand by Hypera's Mantecorp Farmasa division under a licensing agreement with Astellas. The partnership expands Hypera's women's health portfolio and reflects growing industry interest in innovative therapies for menopause, particularly for women who are unable or unwilling to use hormonal treatments. Read more.

EUROFARMA PARTNERS WITH BAVARIAN NORDIC TO BRING NEW CHIKUNGUNYA VACCINE TO BRAZIL

Eurofarma has signed an exclusive agreement with Denmark's Bavarian Nordic to commercialize CHIKV VLP, a single-dose vaccine against chikungunya, in Brazil. The company submitted the marketing authorization application to the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) in June, aiming to expand access to a new preventive option against one of the country's most significant mosquito-borne diseases. The vaccine is based on virus-like particle (VLP) technology, which mimics the external structure of the virus without containing genetic material, triggering an immune response without the risk of infection. Clinical studies demonstrated robust production of neutralizing antibodies across different age groups, including adolescents and older adults. The vaccine has already been approved for individuals aged 12 years and older in the United States, European Union, United Kingdom, Canada and Switzerland, where it is marketed as Vimkunya. If approved by Anvisa, CHIKV VLP will become the second chikungunya vaccine authorized in Brazil, following the vaccine developed by the Butantan Institute in partnership with Valneva. The agreement reinforces Eurofarma's strategy to expand its vaccine portfolio while addressing diseases of major epidemiological relevance in Latin America, where Brazil remains one of the countries most affected by chikungunya. Read more.

BRAZIL WEIGHS RETALIATION TARGETING PHARMACEUTICAL PATENTS AMID U.S. TARIFF DISPUTE

Brazil's government is evaluating a range of retaliatory measures following the United States' decision to impose new tariffs on Brazilian exports, including the possible suspension of intellectual property protections for U.S. pharmaceutical products. The measures are being discussed under Brazil's Economic Reciprocity Law, with officials seeking responses that would maximize pressure on Washington while minimizing the impact on Brazilian consumers and

businesses. According to government officials, options under consideration include restricting royalty payments, suspending the enforcement of pharmaceutical and agricultural seed patents, limiting the activities of U.S. audiovisual companies and filing new complaints before the World Trade Organization (WTO). Vice President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services Geraldo Alckmin has stated that negotiations remain the government's preferred path, but emphasized that Brazil is prepared to respond if the tariffs take effect. For the pharmaceutical industry, the potential suspension of patent protections represents one of the most significant elements under discussion, as it could affect the commercialization and intellectual property rights of innovative medicines developed by U.S. companies operating in Brazil. While no final decision has been made, the debate highlights how trade tensions are increasingly intersecting with pharmaceutical policy and intellectual property issues. Read more.

INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT OPPOSE PROPOSALS TO EXTEND PHARMACEUTICAL PATENT TERMS IN BRAZIL

Representatives from Brazil's pharmaceutical industry, the Ministry of Health and Congress defended maintaining the current 20-year patent term for medicines during a public hearing held by the House of Representatives' Consumer Protection Committee. Participants argued that extending patent protection beyond the current period would delay the entry of generic medicines and biosimilars, increase costs for the Unified Health System (SUS) and limit patient access to innovative treatments. Industry associations, including PróGenéricos, Abifina and Alanac, rejected proposals to restore patent term extensions through legislation or court decisions. According to the Ministry of Health, judicial extensions of pharmaceutical patents could impose an additional BRL 7.1 billion to BRL 16.2 billion burden on the SUS, with only five medicines accounting for about 70% of the estimated impact. Officials also noted that 41 lawsuits seeking patent extensions were filed during the first half of 2026, most citing delays in patent examination by the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). While emphasizing the importance of intellectual property rights as an incentive for innovation, participants argued that the current legal framework already provides an appropriate balance between rewarding innovation and ensuring timely market competition. The debate comes amid renewed legislative efforts to reintroduce mechanisms for extending pharmaceutical patents after Brazil's Supreme Federal Court (STF) struck down automatic patent term extensions in 2021. Read more.

TCU SAYS HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS FELL SHORT OF 2025 TARGETS DESPITE RECORD FUNDING

Brazil's Federal Court of Accounts (TCU) concluded that the federal government failed to meet key performance targets in the Health agenda and the New Growth Acceleration Program (Novo PAC) in 2025, despite allocating record budget resources to both areas. The findings are part of the Court's review of the federal government's 2025 accounts, which were approved with reservations before being forwarded to Congress for final consideration. According to the audit, the Health agenda achieved only 16.7% of its planned specific objectives, while the Novo PAC recorded one of the lowest implementation rates among the government's priority programs, with 23.1% of expected deliveries completed. Overall, the TCU found that only 45.1% of the federal government's priority targets for 2025 were fully achieved, pointing to weaknesses in program execution, governance and performance monitoring. The report underscores the growing emphasis on performance-based public spending and may increase scrutiny of federal health policies, particularly regarding the implementation of strategic programs and the effectiveness of public investments. For the healthcare sector, the findings reinforce the importance of monitoring not only budget allocations but also the government's ability to translate funding into concrete healthcare outcomes and service delivery. Read more.

HEALTH MINISTRY AND FEDERAL COURT DISCUSS PILOT PROGRAM FOR COURT-ORDERED DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Officials from Brazil's Ministry of Health met with the president of the Federal Regional Court of the 4th Region (TRF4) to present a pilot project designed to improve the distribution of

medicines supplied through court orders. The initiative, currently being developed in the state of Santa Catarina, would shift the delivery of judicially mandated medicines from the federal government to state pharmaceutical assistance pharmacies, using the existing public dispensing network. According to the Ministry of Health, the new model aims to make medicine distribution more efficient by bringing dispensing closer to patients, reducing operational costs, improving inventory management and increasing the traceability of products. The proposal is part of broader efforts by the Executive Branch and the Judiciary to improve the management of healthcare litigation and the implementation of judicial decisions within Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS). TRF4 President João Batista Pinto Silveira highlighted the importance of institutional cooperation between the Judiciary and public health authorities in developing solutions that enhance compliance with court rulings while improving access to medicines. If successful, the pilot could serve as a model for broader coordination between federal and state authorities in the judicialization of healthcare. Read more.

FIOCRUZ COMPLETES TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO PRODUCE BRAZIL'S MAIN HIV TREATMENT FOR THE SUS

The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) has completed the technology transfer process to manufacture dolutegravir, the main antiretroviral medicine used in Brazil's HIV treatment program. More than 770,000 people currently receive the medicine free of charge through the Unified Health System (SUS). The start of domestic supply now depends only on final authorization from the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa). The technology transfer agreement was signed in 2020 between Fiocruz's Institute of Drug Technology (Farmanguinhos) and ViiV Healthcare, a company majority-owned by GSK. Since then, Farmanguinhos has invested in manufacturing infrastructure, equipment, workforce training and regulatory capacity to progressively internalize production. Three production batches have already been manufactured and validated, awaiting Anvisa's clearance for distribution. The initiative strengthens Brazil's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and is expected to enhance the long-term sustainability of the country's HIV program. The agreement also includes a second phase to internalize production of the fixed-dose combination of dolutegravir and lamivudine, further expanding domestic production of strategic medicines for the SUS. Read more.

EMS CUTS OZIVY PRICE AS COMPETITION INTENSIFIES IN BRAZIL'S SEMAGLUTIDE MARKET

EMS has reduced the price of Ozivy, Brazil's first synthetic semaglutide, by introducing a new discount package that offers three 1 mg injection pens for BRL 999 through its Vida + Leve patient support program. The new model lowers the cost to approximately BRL 333 per pen, a reduction of about 23% compared with the company's previous promotional offer, as competition in Brazil's GLP-1 market continues to intensify. Ozivy was the first Brazilian-developed semaglutide approved by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) following the expiration of Novo Nordisk's patent in Brazil. Indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, the product is manufactured through chemical synthesis rather than biological processes, distinguishing it from Ozempic and Wegovy. EMS said the pricing strategy is intended to expand patient access while encouraging treatment adherence through physician supervision. The price reduction comes amid a rapidly evolving obesity and diabetes market, with Brazilian manufacturers preparing to challenge established GLP-1 products through lower-cost alternatives. The increased competition is expected to put pressure on pricing strategies across manufacturers and pharmacy chains, potentially improving patient access to one of the fastest-growing therapeutic classes in the country. Read more.

NOVO NORDISK SUSPENDS DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER SALES PLATFORM FOR OBESITY MEDICINES IN BRAZIL

Novo Nordisk has temporarily suspended operations of NovoCare Farmácia, its direct-to-consumer sales platform for obesity and diabetes medicines, including Ozempic, Wegovy and Rybelsus. The company said the decision is intended to incorporate lessons learned during the

pilot phase and develop a model that is better integrated with Brazil's retail pharmacy sector, which it described as a strategic partner. The move comes amid growing debate over direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical sales in Brazil. While digital distribution models continue to expand globally, Brazil's regulatory framework limits medicine sales outside traditional pharmacy channels. The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) has signaled interest in advancing rules for online marketplaces, but the current framework remains restrictive. The initiative also faced criticism from the Brazilian Association of Pharmacy and Drugstore Chains (Abrafarma), which argued that direct sales could weaken the country's medicine dispensing model and compromise patient safety. Novo Nordisk stated that it remains committed to expanding access to treatments for chronic diseases while complying with local regulations and will continue evaluating innovative distribution models for the Brazilian market. Read more.

SUPERMARKETS ENTER BRAZIL'S PHARMACY MARKET, INTENSIFYING COMPETITION WITH DRUGSTORE CHAINS

Brazilian supermarket chains have begun operating pharmacies inside their stores following the enactment of Law No. 15,357/2026, marking the entry of the food retail sector into the country's pharmaceutical market. The first Assaí Farma unit opened this week in São Paulo, offering prescription and over-the-counter medicines, weight-loss injectables, vaccination services and basic healthcare procedures. Assaí plans to open 25 pharmacies by the end of 2026 and expand to 250 units within the next few years. The new legislation permits pharmacies to operate inside supermarkets under strict conditions, including a physically separate area and the permanent presence of a licensed pharmacist. Other major retailers, including Carrefour, Grupo Mateus and Plurix, are also expanding or testing pharmacy operations, seeking to capture a share of Brazil's BRL 227 billion pharmaceutical retail market. Industry observers note that demand for GLP-1 weight-loss medicines has become one of the main drivers of sector growth. The expansion has intensified competition with established pharmacy chains and revived debate over medicine distribution channels. While supermarket operators argue that increased competition could lower prices and improve consumer access, pharmacy associations contend that medicine dispensing requires specialized operations and should remain distinct from conventional retail. The discussion also comes as pharmaceutical manufacturers and digital platforms explore direct-to-consumer sales models, signaling broader changes in Brazil's pharmaceutical distribution landscape. Read more.

PROCON-SP SURVEY FINDS DRUG PRICES CAN VARY UP TO 25-FOLD BETWEEN PHARMACIES

A survey conducted by Procon-SP found that the price of the same medicine can vary by as much as 2,433.6% (or roughly 25 times) between pharmacies in the city of São Paulo. The largest price gap was identified for the generic version of tadalafil (5 mg, 30 tablets), which ranged from BRL 3.87 to BRL 98.05, highlighting significant differences in retail pricing despite government price regulation. The study also showed that generic medicines purchased online were, on average, 20.6% cheaper than those sold in physical stores, while branded medicines cost 8.1% less through e-commerce channels. Overall, generics remained less expensive than reference products, with average discounts exceeding 60% in both online and brick-and-mortar pharmacies. Procon-SP also reported that medicine prices have increased faster than inflation over the past year. Between 2025 and 2026, prices for generic medicines rose 12.7%, while branded medicines increased 8.4%, compared with accumulated consumer inflation (IPCA) of 4.99%. Despite the wide price disparities, all pharmacies surveyed complied with the Maximum Consumer Price (PMC) established by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), with differences attributed to retailers' pricing and discount policies. Read more.

ANS APPROVES 2026–2028 REGULATORY AGENDA WITH FOCUS ON BENEFICIARIES, PRICING AND QUALITY OF CARE

The Board of the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS) has approved the agency's 2026–2028 Regulatory Agenda, establishing the priority topics that will guide regulatory action over the next three years. The agenda is centered on improving the experience of health

insurance beneficiaries while promoting greater transparency, regulatory predictability and sustainability in Brazil's private health insurance market. The agenda is organized into three components: regulatory initiatives, Regulatory Outcome Assessments (ARRs) to evaluate the effectiveness of existing rules, and preliminary studies on emerging issues that may lead to future regulation. Among the priority themes are access to healthcare services, quality of care, care coordination, pricing and premium adjustment policies, expansion of care pathways, and improvements to economic and contractual relations within the supplementary health sector. According to ANS President Wadih Damous, the new agenda aims to strengthen consumer protection while increasing confidence in the regulatory framework governing Brazil's private health insurance sector. The instrument also provides greater visibility into the agency's rulemaking priorities, allowing stakeholders (including insurers, healthcare providers and the life sciences industry) to better anticipate upcoming regulatory developments. Read more.

HEALTH PLAN LAWSUITS IN SÃO PAULO RISE 83% OVER THE PAST DECADE

The number of lawsuits against private health insurers judged by the São Paulo Court of Justice (TJ-SP) increased 83% over the past decade, rising from 11,347 cases in 2015 to 20,771 in 2025, according to a study by the Health Insurance Study Group (GEPS) at the University of São Paulo (USP) School of Medicine. During the first half of 2026 alone, the court ruled on 9,071 cases, putting the state on track to surpass last year's total. The study identifies coverage denials, disputes over premium adjustments, and refusals to cover medicines, procedures and treatments as the main drivers of litigation. Researchers argue that the sustained increase in lawsuits reflects persistent conflicts between beneficiaries and health insurers, despite ongoing regulatory efforts by the National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS). The findings reinforce concerns over the growing judicialization of Brazil's supplementary health sector, which has become a major challenge for insurers, regulators and the judiciary. The rising volume of litigation is expected to intensify discussions on regulatory reforms, consumer protection and mechanisms to reduce legal disputes while ensuring timely access to healthcare services. Read more.

FENASAÚDE SAYS BRAZIL'S PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SECTOR REMAINS FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

Brazil's private health insurance sector is not facing a risk of collapse despite mounting financial pressures, according to Fenasaúde Executive Director José Cechin. In an interview with O Globo, Cechin said the industry's financial indicators have improved following significant losses in recent years, although rising healthcare costs and the growing volume of litigation continue to challenge the sector. Cechin argued that the industry's recovery reflects adjustments in premium pricing and operational management rather than a reduction in demand. He also emphasized that the sustainability of supplementary healthcare will depend on addressing structural issues such as the judicialization of healthcare, the incorporation of new technologies, population aging and the increasing frequency of high-cost treatments. The comments come amid ongoing discussions over regulatory reforms in Brazil's supplementary health sector, including measures to improve market sustainability while preserving beneficiaries' access to healthcare services. Fenasaúde maintains that strengthening the regulatory environment and promoting greater efficiency will be essential to ensuring the long-term viability of private health insurance in Brazil. Read more.

CLINICAL TRIALS FRAMEWORK BOOSTS DEMAND FOR CROS IN BRAZIL

Brazil's new clinical trials regulatory framework is strengthening the country's position as a destination for global clinical trials while increasing the strategic importance of Contract Research Organizations (CROs). With more agile regulatory procedures and greater alignment with international standards, the country has become increasingly attractive for multicenter studies and investments in research and development. According to data presented by Interfarma during the BIO International Convention, Brazil moved from 18th to 12th place worldwide in the number of newly initiated clinical trials. In the first months of 2026 alone, the country registered 51 new studies, accounting for 2.9% of the global total, its strongest recent

performance. Experts attribute this progress to the implementation of Law No. 14,874/2024 and Anvisa's RDC No. 945/2024, which streamlined approvals by allowing parallel regulatory and ethics reviews. As sponsors expand clinical research activities in Brazil, CROs are expected to play a growing role in regulatory submissions, patient recruitment, data management, study monitoring and quality assurance. Industry specialists note that, despite regulatory advances, research centers will still need to invest in technology, compliance and operational capacity to sustain growth and expand clinical research beyond the country's traditional hubs in the South and Southeast regions. Read more.

PRIMARY CARE DATA REMAIN UNDERUSED DESPITE ADVANCES IN BRAZIL'S DIGITAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Brazil has made significant progress in digitizing primary healthcare, but the vast amount of data generated by the country's primary care network remains underutilized for clinical decision-making, public health planning and health technology assessment. Experts interviewed by Futuro da Saúde argue that improving data quality, interoperability and governance is essential to unlock the full value of the information collected across the Unified Health System (SUS). According to the report, Brazil's primary care network produces extensive clinical and epidemiological data through electronic health records and national information systems. However, fragmentation among databases, inconsistent data quality and limited interoperability continue to hinder the effective use of this information for research, policymaking and patient care. Specialists advocate greater integration through the National Health Data Network (RNDS), standardized data collection and stronger governance frameworks. The discussion comes as the Ministry of Health advances its digital health agenda, seeking to expand data integration across different levels of care. Better use of primary care data could support disease surveillance, resource allocation, real-world evidence generation and pharmaceutical policy, while strengthening Brazil's capacity to evaluate health outcomes and improve healthcare delivery. Read more.

HEALTH MINISTRY ADVANCES CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF BRAZIL'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Brazil's Ministry of Health is advancing measures to prepare the Unified Health System (SUS) for the growing impacts of climate change, emphasizing the need to strengthen health services, protect vulnerable populations and improve the system's capacity to respond to extreme weather events. The initiative was presented during the 39th National Congress of the National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats (Conasems), where federal officials outlined strategies to integrate climate adaptation into health planning. Central to the strategy is AdaptaSUS, the Ministry's sectoral climate adaptation plan, which forms part of Brazil's broader National Climate Plan. The program includes 27 targets and 93 actions aimed at enhancing epidemiological surveillance, risk management, resilient health infrastructure, emergency preparedness and the use of climate data to support public health decision-making. Officials stressed that primary healthcare will play a key role in identifying local vulnerabilities and coordinating preventive actions. The Ministry also highlighted the need to ensure that healthcare facilities remain operational during floods, droughts, heatwaves and other extreme weather events by strengthening supply chains, contingency planning, water and energy security, and early warning systems. The initiative reflects the growing recognition that climate resilience is becoming a strategic priority for healthcare systems, with implications for disease surveillance, pharmaceutical logistics and the continuity of essential health services. Read more.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Study highlights barriers to timely breast cancer diagnosis in Brazil

New Brazilian guidelines update bladder cancer treatment recommendations

Anvisa approves first-in-class therapy for progressive fibrosing lung diseases

Anvisa approves new influenza vaccine with up to 73% efficacy

SUS begins nationwide rollout of insulin glargine for children, adolescents and older adults

Study finds 90% of young Brazilian doctors feel unprepared to deliver bad news

BRAZIL NEWS

Brazil justice suspends visits to ex-President Bolsonaro for 30 days

Brazil's Lula gains ground on Flavio Bolsonaro ahead of presidential vote, poll shows

Brazil's economy forecast to grow moderately after October presidential vote

US imposes new 25% tariffs on Brazil, expands exemptions list

Brazil finance chief pledges reciprocity, not retaliation, after new U.S. tariffs

Brazil instant coffee sector exempt from new US tariffs, protecting up to $2.5 billion in exports

Brazil unveils credit package for rural sector hit by U.S. tariffs

US tariffs on Brazil are a bitter pill for sugar and ethanol makers

Brazil government now expects 2026 inflation to be above central bank's target

Brazil charges 22 with laundering $20 million for gangs, probes possible al Qaeda link