WEEKLY REPORT

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HEALTH SECTOR PRESENTS PRIORITIES FOR BRAZIL'S NEXT GOVERNMENT

Representatives of Brazil's pharmaceutical and medical device industries, healthcare providers, researchers, patient organizations, and public health specialists have presented a broad set of priorities for the country's next government, covering healthcare financing, access to innovation, clinical research, digital health, and regulatory modernization. Industry associations have called for policies to strengthen domestic production and technological capacity, consolidate clinical research, modernize hospital infrastructure, and provide greater regulatory predictability. Proposals also include strengthening institutions such as the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), and the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies into the Unified Health System (Conitec). Other priorities include increased and more predictable funding for the public healthcare system (SUS), stronger primary care and regional healthcare networks, interoperability and data integration, improved access to innovative technologies and measures to address emerging challenges such as mental health and climate change. Read more.

HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT FIVE PRIORITIES FOR BRAZIL'S NEXT GOVERNMENT

Healthcare organizations in São Paulo have launched a manifesto outlining five priorities they consider essential for Brazil's next government: a unified patient identity, structured and integrated health data, qualified access to care, standardized evidence-based care, and measures to reduce waste. The document, prepared by the Federation of Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories and Healthcare Establishments of the State of São Paulo (Fesaúde) and the Union of Hospitals, Clinics and Healthcare Facilities of the State of São Paulo (SindiHosp), argues for better coordination between Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS) and the supplementary health sector. The proposals focus on reducing fragmentation across the healthcare system and improving the use of existing resources and information. According to the organizations, greater data integration and coordination could also help reduce unnecessary repeated tests and other inefficiencies, freeing resources to be reinvested in patient care. Read more.

HEALTH ADVISERS TO LULA AND FLÁVIO BOLSONARO PRESENT SIMILAR PROPOSALS FOR SUS

Health advisers representing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro presented similar proposals for the future of Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS), including stronger domestic production of medicines, greater use of technology and data integration, and payment models linked to clinical outcomes. During a debate on the future of healthcare, Health Minister Alexandre Padilha, and physician Cláudio Lottenberg also discussed the use of artificial intelligence to improve healthcare management and patient access. The convergence highlights how issues such as technology, industrial capacity and efficiency are becoming central to discussions about the future of the SUS. The debate also addressed challenges including waiting lists, regional healthcare organization, and the role of private providers in supporting the public system. Read more.

NEW LAW GRANTS IMPORT TAX EXEMPTION FOR MEDICINES WITHOUT A BRAZILIAN EQUIVALENT

A new Brazilian law has established a zero import tax rate for medicines without a similar product available in Brazil when imported by individuals for their own treatment of rare or neglected diseases. To qualify for the exemption, medicines must be classified by the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) as having no national equivalent. The products will also be exempt from the value limits established under Brazil's Simplified Taxation Regime. The criteria and procedures for granting the benefit will still be regulated by the competent authorities, and the measure is expected to take effect within a maximum of 180 days after the law's publication. During the signing ceremony, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva also called for the benefit to be extended to medicines imported by Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS) for the treatment of rare and neglected diseases. According to the government, the tax reform is expected to eliminate taxes on medicines purchased by public entities starting next year. Read more.

FEDERAL PROSECUTOR CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OF BRAZIL'S HEALTH SPENDING FLOOR

Brazil's Public Prosecutor's Office at the Federal Court of Accounts (MPTCU) has challenged the federal government's decision to include court-ordered payments and expenses of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) in the calculation of the constitutional minimum spending requirement for healthcare. The measure allowed the government to reduce by R$5.5 billion the amount of additional resources required to meet Brazil's health spending floor in the 2026 budget, according to the report. The classification had been rejected by Congress but was later adopted by the Executive Branch and proposed again for the 2027 budget. The MPTCU has asked the Federal Court of Accounts (TCU) to prohibit the practice, arguing that the expenses should not be counted as actions and services under the constitutional health spending requirement. The case adds to the debate over the financing of Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS) and the resources effectively available for healthcare services. Read more.

BRAZILIAN FAMILIES EXPECTED TO SPEND R$537.5 BILLION ON HEALTHCARE IN 2026

Brazilian families are expected to spend R$537.5 billion on healthcare in 2026, a 7% increase compared with the previous year, according to projections by IPC Maps. Medicines and wound care products are expected to account for R$257.8 billion, while health plans, medical consultations and treatments should reach R$279.7 billion. Spending on medicines is projected to grow faster than expenditure on health plans and medical services, reflecting the continued expansion of Brazil's pharmaceutical retail market. The increase also comes amid demographic changes, with population aging expected to place additional pressure on household healthcare spending. Read more.

HEALTH MINISTRY PREPARES NEW CARE PATHWAYS FOR RARE DISEASES IN SUS

Brazil's Ministry of Health is preparing new care pathways for rare diseases within the public healthcare system (SUS), with several documents expected to be published by the end of 2026. The initiatives include care pathways for neurodegenerative diseases, epidermolysis bullosa and conditions requiring support therapies such as home care. The new pathways are intended to organize how patients move through the healthcare network, defining the specialties, tests, rehabilitation services, and other forms of care required. The Ministry is also working on a proposal to organize infusion therapy services, a key challenge for rare diseases requiring medicines administered in specialized centers. The initiatives are being developed while the broader National Policy for Comprehensive Care for People with Rare Diseases, established in 2014, is under review. According to the Ministry, the broader policy update is expected to be addressed by the next administration. Read more.

BRAZILIAN INFLUENCER CASE HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES FACING RARE DISEASE PATIENTS

The case of Brazilian influencer and pilot Lito Sousa has brought renewed attention to the challenges faced by patients with rare diseases in Brazil, including delayed diagnosis and limited access to treatments. Rare disease patients often face a long diagnostic journey, moving between different specialists before receiving a definitive diagnosis. Limited awareness among healthcare professionals, the small number of specialized centers and restricted access to genetic and other diagnostic tests can further delay identification of these conditions. Once diagnosed, patients may also face difficulties accessing specialized care and high-cost therapies, particularly when treatments are not incorporated into Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS). The debate highlights the need to expand diagnostic capacity, specialized services, and access to innovative therapies for patients with rare diseases in Brazil. Read more.

RARE SOUTH AMERICAN DISEASES OFFER CLUES TO THE NEXT PANDEMIC

The resurgence of rare zoonotic diseases in South America is raising concerns about the potential emergence of new public health threats. Scientists studying Argentine hemorrhagic fever and other diseases transmitted by rodents warn that climate change, environmental degradation and changes in land use are altering animal habitats and increasing contact between humans and potential disease reservoirs. Argentine hemorrhagic fever, once largely restricted to rural workers, has recently been detected in urban areas and among people with no connection to agricultural activities. Researchers believe that monitoring how climate and human activity affect the movement of rodents and other animal hosts could help health authorities identify emerging outbreaks before they develop into larger epidemics. The growing spread of zoonotic diseases reinforces the importance of surveillance, research, and preparedness as environmental changes create new conditions for pathogens to reach human populations. Read more.

MOST SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH LAWSUITS FAVOR PLAINTIFFS, FUELING DEBATE ON MEDIATION

Around 87% of supplementary health lawsuits that reached a final decision between September 2024 and July 2025 were decided in favor of plaintiffs, according to a study by Brazil's National Council of Justice (CNJ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The high rate of successful claims, combined with a low conciliation rate of 3.8%, has intensified the debate over alternative mechanisms for resolving disputes between health plan beneficiaries and operators before cases reach the courts. Most lawsuits involve requests for medicines or treatments, with many concerning procedures not included in the National Supplementary Health Agency's (ANS) mandatory coverage list. Specialists have proposed the creation of an independent, multidisciplinary, and voluntary mediation mechanism to provide technical reviews and address disputes before litigation, while preserving beneficiaries' access to the courts. The ANS's existing Preliminary Intermediation Notification (NIP) mechanism already resolves around eight out of ten complaints submitted to the agency. Read more.

CARDIOLOGIST CALLS FOR VALUE-BASED FUNDING MODEL IN BRAZIL'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Cardiologist Ludhmila Hajjar has called for a structural reform of Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS), arguing that hospitals should move away from a payment model based on the volume of procedures and toward remuneration linked to quality and clinical outcomes. In an article published by O Globo, Hajjar argues that healthcare providers should be assessed using indicators such as waiting times, mortality, complications, readmissions, length of hospital stay and patient experience. Under the proposed model, hospitals delivering better results and reducing unnecessary delays and complications would receive greater incentives. The proposal also addresses the management of waiting lists, the use of artificial intelligence and data integration, as well as the incorporation of high-cost technologies. Hajjar argues that a more value-based model could improve efficiency and help the SUS deliver better health outcomes without simply increasing spending. Read more.

PRECISION ONCOLOGY IS ALREADY A REALITY AND WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD, SAYS PAULO HOFF

Precision oncology has already become a reality and is expected to play an increasingly important role in cancer care, according to oncologist Paulo Hoff. The approach uses molecular and genetic information to better understand each patient's tumor and guide more personalized treatment strategies. Advances in genomic testing and the development of targeted therapies are expanding the ability to select treatments based on the biological characteristics of tumors rather than solely on their location in the body. However, the broader adoption of precision oncology in Brazil will depend on expanding access to diagnostic technologies, specialized services, and innovative medicines. Read more.

INNOVATIVE THERAPIES CONTROL CANCER FOR YEARS, BUT ACCESS REMAINS A CHALLENGE IN BRAZIL

Advances in innovative cancer therapies are allowing some patients to live for years with tumors under control, reinforcing the transformation of cancer into a chronic condition in an increasing number of cases. Targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and other precision treatments have significantly changed outcomes for several types of cancer. However, access to these innovations remains uneven in Brazil, particularly between the public healthcare system (SUS) and the private sector. The challenge goes beyond the availability of medicines and includes access to molecular testing, specialized services, and the capacity of the healthcare system to incorporate and deliver increasingly complex treatments. Read more.

PATENT EXPIRATIONS ACCELERATE BRAZILIAN PRODUCTION OF CANCER BIOPHARMACEUTICALS

The expiration of patents for biological medicines is opening new opportunities for Brazilian companies to expand domestic production of biosimilars, particularly for cancer treatment. The shift could strengthen Brazil's biotechnology industry and reduce dependence on imported high-cost medicines. As patents for major biologic therapies expire, local manufacturers are investing in the development and production of biosimilars, which may increase competition and help expand access to oncology treatments. The movement also aligns with Brazil's broader strategy to strengthen the national Health Economic-Industrial Complex and build greater technological and production capacity in strategic areas of healthcare. Read more.

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING REACHES ONLY 36% OF TARGET POPULATION IN BRAZIL

Brazil effectively screens only 36% of the target population for cervical cancer, well below the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of 70%, according to data presented at the 4th Public Policy Forum for Gynecological Cancer. The country's current screening model, largely based on occasional Pap tests, can lead to repeated testing among some women while leaving others without adequate follow-up. Around 60% of cervical cancer cases in Brazil are diagnosed at locally advanced stages. The forum also launched the National Radar for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer, a tool designed to monitor progress in HPV vaccination, screening, diagnosis, and treatment. The expansion of HPV-DNA testing through Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS) is another key measure, although experts warn that the healthcare network will need sufficient capacity to absorb the additional demand for diagnostic procedures and treatment. Read more.

BAYER BETS ON NON-HORMONAL MENOPAUSE TREATMENT IN BRAZIL

Bayer is betting on a new non-hormonal treatment for menopause in Brazil, targeting symptoms such as hot flashes, sleep disturbances, and mood changes. The medicine, Lynkuet, has already been submitted to the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa), with approval expected between late 2026 and early 2027. The treatment could expand options for women who cannot use hormone therapy, including patients with a history of breast or endometrial cancer, severe liver disease, or blood clotting disorders. The market is also gaining momentum following Anvisa's approval of the first non-hormonal treatment for menopausal symptoms earlier this year. Read more.

HEALTH MINISTER SAYS WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS COULD BE INCORPORATED INTO SUS UNDER SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS

Health Minister Alexandre Padilha said that GLP-1-based weight-loss medicines could be incorporated into Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS) in the coming years, but only under specific clinical protocols and not as treatments for aesthetic purposes. According to Padilha, the medicines could benefit selected groups of patients, including people with obesity awaiting bariatric surgery and patients with cardiovascular conditions. The Ministry of Health is also monitoring pilot initiatives involving the use of these treatments in the public system. The debate over potential incorporation comes amid growing demand for GLP-1 therapies and concerns over their high cost and inappropriate use. Novo Nordisk has renewed its request to the National Commission for the Incorporation of Technologies in the SUS (Conitec) for the inclusion of Wegovy for patients with obesity who have suffered a heart attack, with the proposal estimated to cost between R$500 million and R$650 million per year. Read more.

FALLING PRICES COULD ACCELERATE USE OF WEIGHT-LOSS DRUGS IN BRAZIL

Falling prices and the arrival of new competitors could significantly expand the use of GLP-1-based weight-loss medicines in Brazil, according to an analysis by a partner at McKinsey. The market is expected to become increasingly competitive as patents expire and new medicines enter the country, potentially making treatments more accessible to a broader population. The expansion of supply could also reshape healthcare spending and increase demand for medical monitoring and services related to obesity and its associated conditions. The growing use of weight-loss drugs is expected to have effects beyond the pharmaceutical market, influencing sectors ranging from food and nutrition to healthcare services and health insurance. Read more.

PARAGUAY’S HEALTH AUTHORITY SAYS REGISTERED WEIGHT-LOSS PENS MEET LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

Paraguay's National Directorate of Health Surveillance (Dinavisa) said that weight-loss pens registered in the country comply with all local sanitary requirements, while stressing that the regulation and authorization of these products in Brazil remain the responsibility of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa). The statement comes amid growing concerns over weight-loss products containing tirzepatide that are produced or marketed in Paraguay and sold to Brazilian consumers. Products registered in Paraguay are not automatically authorized in Brazil, and no Paraguayan laboratory had submitted an application to register these medicines with Anvisa, according to the agency. Anvisa and Dinavisa signed a cooperation agreement in August to strengthen information-sharing and efforts against illegal products, including cooperation on laboratory testing, registration, inspections, and post-market surveillance. Read more.

COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS ACCOUNT FOR FIVE IN SIX HEALTH PLANS IN BRAZIL

Collective contracts now account for five out of every six private health plans in Brazil, highlighting the growing dependence of supplementary healthcare coverage on employment and other forms of collective affiliation. Of the country's 53.1 million private health plan beneficiaries, 44.7 million, or 84.2%, are covered by collective contracts. Employer-sponsored plans account for the largest share, with 38.9 million beneficiaries, while 5.8 million are enrolled through collective membership plans. The figures also illustrate the limited reach of private healthcare in Brazil. Despite growth over the past decade, health plans currently cover around 25% of the population, while the number of operators has declined. The sector also recorded a turnover rate of 29.3% in the 12 months through July 2026, reflecting the high level of movement among health plan contracts. Read more.

ANS PRESIDENT DISCUSSES FUTURE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTHCARE IN BRAZIL

The president of Brazil's National Supplementary Health Agency (ANS), Wadih Damous, participated in a debate on the future of public and private healthcare in Brazil, addressing the challenges and prospects facing the country's health system. The discussion highlighted issues including the sustainability of supplementary healthcare, population aging, access to new technologies and the relationship between the public healthcare system (SUS) and private health plans. The debate also addressed the need for regulatory changes capable of responding to demographic and technological transformations in healthcare. Damous' participation comes as the supplementary health sector faces growing pressure to balance access, quality and financial sustainability while adapting to the increasing healthcare needs of an aging population. Read more.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INDUSTRY CALLS FOR MORE DATA IN BRAZIL'S NATIONAL HEALTH NETWORK

Brazil's electronic health record industry is calling for broader and more detailed data sharing through the National Health Data Network (RNDS), arguing that interoperability will only improve patient care if information can flow between healthcare providers. Technology companies say the current data available through the network remains limited and should include more complete clinical information, such as treatments, medicines, hospital visits, and healthcare professionals involved in a patient's care. The Ministry of Health, however, argues that the expansion of the RNDS should occur gradually, following technical discussions on which additional data should be incorporated. Health Minister Alexandre Padilha said the government aims to consolidate data integration tools in the coming months and expand them to states and municipalities over the next four years. The RNDS currently holds around 6 billion health records, including data from both the public healthcare system (SUS) and supplementary health sector. Read more.

BRAZIL PLANS R$1.9 BILLION SMART HEALTH COMPLEX FOR SUS

Brazil is moving forward with plans to build a new Smart Health Complex in Porto Alegre, with R$1.9 billion in planned investments to modernize and expand services provided by the Grupo Hospitalar Conceição (GHC), one of the country's largest public hospital groups. The project will bring together the Fêmina, Criança Conceição and Cristo Redentor hospitals in a new structure connected to Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição. With around 750 beds, the complex will expand capacity and include robotic surgery facilities, adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care units, specialized diagnostics, and rehabilitation services. The initiative also aims to incorporate real-time data, artificial intelligence, and precision medicine into healthcare delivery. The project is being structured with support from the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) through a public-private partnership, while healthcare services will remain 100% publicly managed under the Unified Health System (SUS). Read more.

U.S. TARIFFS AFFECT BRAZILIAN MEDICAL DEVICE EXPORTS

New U.S. tariffs are affecting Brazilian exports of medical devices and hospital equipment, with 80.2% of products classified as optical and medical-surgical instruments now subject to an additional 37.5% tariff, according to an estimate by Amcham Brasil. The category generated US$386 million in Brazilian exports to the U.S. in 2025. The Brazilian Association of the Health Technology Industry (Abimed) has warned that companies cannot easily redirect exports to other markets due to country-specific regulatory, registration and certification requirements. While several medicines, pharmaceutical ingredients and vaccines remain exempt from the new tariffs, part of the medical device sector was left outside the exemption lists. Abimed is discussing alternatives with the Brazilian government to mitigate the impact on the industry's competitiveness. Read more.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Anvisa approves new oral treatment for migraine prevention

Anvisa approves two generic liraglutide medicines

Anvisa bans irregularly marketed Chinese medicine product

Health plans to cover digital mammography without age restrictions

Brazil creates national policy to protect people with Tourette syndrome

TCU gives Health Ministry 60 days to explain delays in Fiocruz medicine deliveries

New dialysis payment model fails to close funding gap, clinics say

BRAZIL NEWS

Lula maintains lead over Flavio Bolsonaro ahead of Brazil election, Datafolha poll shows

Bolsonaro, Lula statistically tied in simulated Brazil runoff, Atlas/Bloomberg poll shows

Brazil's Eduardo Bolsonaro to push for U.S. sanctions against Supreme Court Justice during Washington visit

Brazil election challenger Bolsonaro under investigation over alleged corruption in Banco Master case

Brazil's top judge suspends justices' rulings in Supreme Court power struggle

Brazil court crisis deepens as justice orders federal police chief suspended

Cooling inflation strengthens bets on another Brazil rate cut

Petrobras eyes diesel price hike, awaiting government measures to shield consumers, sources say

Brazil boosts diesel subsidies, cuts fuel taxes amid oil rally

Clock ticking for Brazil’s ambitious plan to fund tropical forests