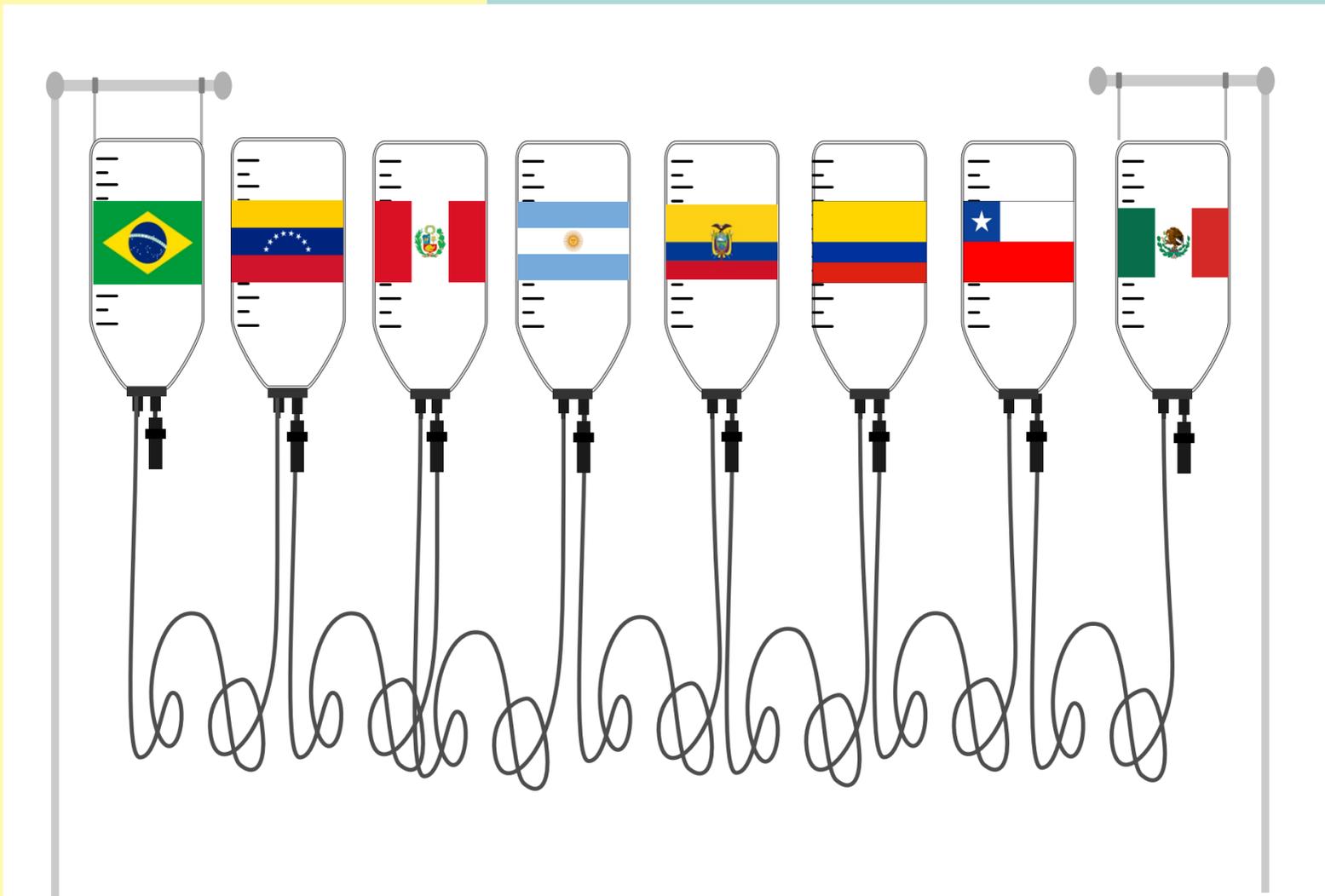




*Main news:*  
*-Health sector*  
*-Regulatory affair*  
*-Pricing policies*  
*-And others.*



Brasil

Perú

Colombia

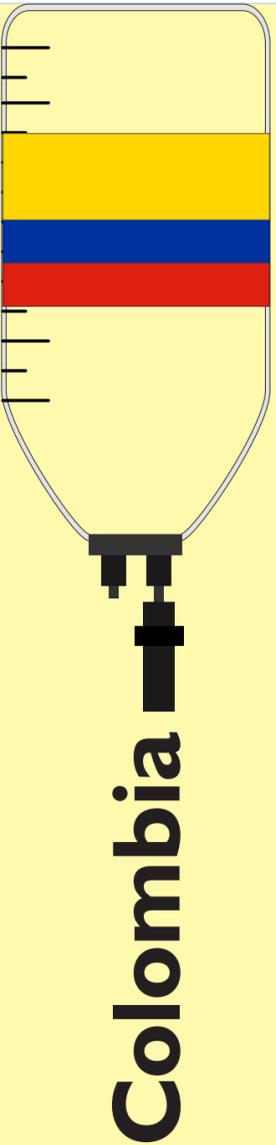
Argentina

Venezuela

Chile

Mexico

Ecuador



## Colombia has first winners of innovation in technology for health

The winner of the first National Award for Innovation in Medical Devices was Andrés Guerra, from the School of Engineering of Antioquia, EIA, with a medical device called Solubreath, an application for smartphones designed for patients with respiratory deficiencies, which allows remote monitoring of patients and has the function of performing respiratory therapies from home or work through audiovisual indications based on methods endorsed by professionals.

Andrés Ruíz, of the company Bioin soluciones, was awarded second prize, who developed the medical technology of personalized intravenous anesthesia Activa, which avoids injuries, infections and complications when applying anesthesia in the lumbar area. Hidrosisponge obtained the third position, developed by Juliana Jaramillo of the Universidad de los Andes. This medical device favors the regeneration of tissues by using natural elements to treat diabetic foot ulcers, which would reduce the risk of infection and amputation. The fourth place was for Mateo Pineda of the University of the Andes, with the medical technology Biopsy Solutions, a plug for percutaneous biopsies created from porcine tissue that has regenerative properties, reduces the risk of problems with bleeding and promotes rapid recovery.

The V International Forum of Medical Devices closed its annual version with the delivery of this award, convened by the Chamber of Medical Devices and Supplies for Health of ANDI, which seeks to promote young entrepreneurs in biomedical and health technology, that allows to provide solutions to the challenges of the health system.

Source: Radio Santafe

## Political risks for the markets of Colombia, Mexico and Brazil

2018 will be a year of presidential elections in these countries that will define their economic policies. If there is an event that could hurt some prominent emerging markets, it would be the fact that the voters of Brazil, Mexico and Colombia are choosing new leaders.

Mexico and Brazil have some of the highest political risks in the group, says Invesco's Sean Newman, but that does not mean that an increase in populism disturbs financial markets. "Many of these countries, Mexico and Brazil in particular, already have a populist political background." Last week, the Brazilian real led the losses among the major currencies after a survey showed that market favorites were lagging in the run-up to the October 2018 elections.

Most respondents expressed support for former populist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is fighting corruption charges. The second in the poll was far-right deputy Jair Bolsonaro, best known for his protests against homosexuality and a firm stance of law and order.

The concern for Mexico is that the populist candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador has a good chance of becoming the next president of the country in July and has operators taking refuge in the options market to protect against a general sale. López Obrador has indicated his opposition to the constitutional changes approved under President Enrique Peña Nieto, in particular, the end of state ownership of the monopoly of electricity production through Petroleum Mexicans.

The risks of the Colombian presidential race seem more balanced. A recent poll on the elections of May 2018 showed Sergio Fajardo, the former mayor of Medellín who has a pro-business position, at the helm. But the previous polls were led by the less preferred candidate of the markets, Gustavo Petro, the former mayor of Bogotá.

Source: Portfolio Newspaper

## Medical devices and supplies industry

The devices and medical supplies mark a before and after in the life of man, alleviating and improving their quality of life; the other side of the coin are the patients who, due to economic conditions, cannot access said devices; referrals "to any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, implant, reagent for in vitro use, software, material or other similar or related article ...", according to the WHO.

The countries of the Pacific Alliance (Mexico, Chile, Peru and Colombia), the ninth world economy; it is the strong block of medical devices, although most of these countries supply the DM market with imports. Mexico is the ninth largest exporter of medical devices in the world; the most important supplier of these elements of the United States, and the number one exporter of medical devices in the region. Its production reaches more than 15 thousand 220 million dollars, generating more than 130 thousand jobs. The advantage of the Mexican medical device market translates into savings and production costs.

Chile, like Mexico belong to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is the only country in the region that does not regulate medical devices, or does so incompletely.

Colombia and Peru, which have previous exams to enter the OECD, have specialized agencies for the DM cluster. In Peru, this sector has been regulated since 2009 and is the General Directorate of Drugs, Drugs and Supplies (DIGEMID), the entity in charge of authorizing or denying sanitary registration of medical devices.

Globally, sometimes the costs of medical devices are not consistent with the safety and good quality of them, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to recommend governments in implementing agreed regulatory systems. The future of the DM sector and supplies is to be developed along with telemedicine, e-health and m-health.

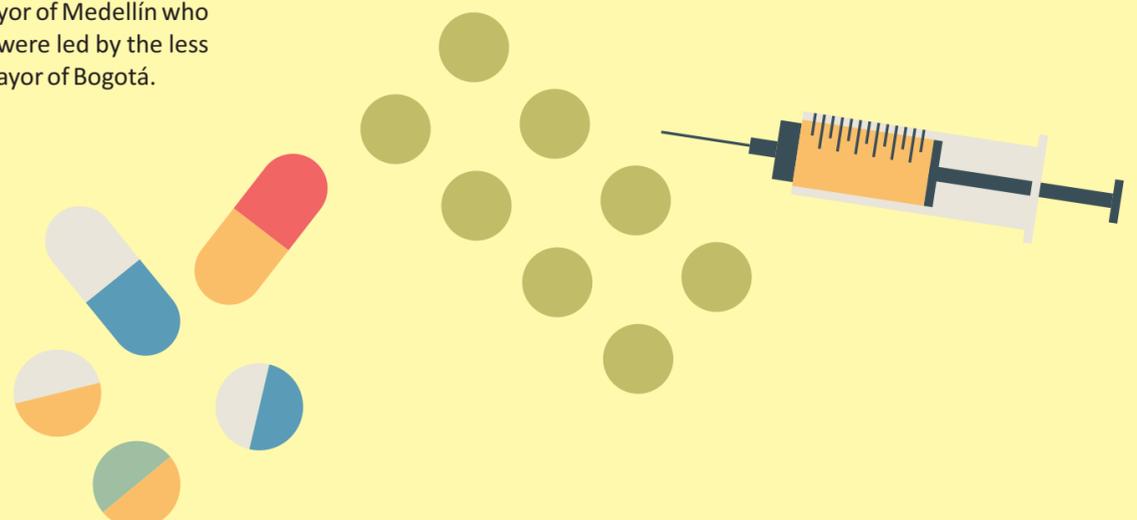
Source: Radio Santafe

## Analysis of the big survey: this is the panorama at 8 months of the presidential elections

The former governor of Antioquia is doing well against other candidates in different scenarios. To the question: "If the elections for president were tomorrow and the candidates were the ones that appear on this card, which one would you vote for?" Sergio Fajardo leads with 21%, followed by Germán Vargas Lleras with 12.5%. The others registered like this:

Claudia López 11.2%  
Gustavo Petro 10.4%  
Juan Manuel Galán 8.8%  
Humberto De la Calle 8.3%  
Iván Duque 6.9%  
Jorge Enrique Robledo 5.3%  
Marta Lucía Ramírez 4.6%  
Clara López Obregón 3.2%  
Alejandro Ordoñez 3.1%  
Piedad Córdoba 1.4%  
Juan Carlos Pinzón 1.2%

Source: Caracol News



# Brazil



## ABIMED encourages the participation of companies in the MDSAP

The program provides for a single audit between countries and can accelerate the registration and entry of health products into the market

The ABIMED (Brazilian Association of Products for Health), which represents about 240 medical device companies, held a workshop to encourage the participation of its associates in the MDSAP. Where, it allows the regulatory body to accept external audits in substitution to its inspection of factories for the concession or renewal of the Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practices (CBPF) - a prerequisite for companies to put their products on the market.

The MDSAP (abbreviations in English for the Program of Unique Audit in Products for the health) was conceived by the regulatory agencies of Australia, Brazil, Canada and the United States and later also had the adhesion of Japan. The program allows the manufacturers of medical devices to hire an external auditor, authorized by the participating agencies, to carry out a single factory inspection, which contemplates the requirements of all the regulatory authorities involved in the program.

According to him, the report prepared by the audit body is sent to the agencies of the signatory countries of the MDSAP, which will accept it to issue its own certificate of good practices and to register the products manufactured there. In addition to the potential for cost reduction, the program will shorten deadlines for medical devices to enter the market and be accessible to patients and in accordance with the high-quality standards required by regulation.

Source: Portal Segs

## The World Bank recommends Brazil a hard adjustment to reduce the fiscal deficit

The World Bank made a series of recommendations to the government of Brazil to drastically lower a fiscal deficit. According to the institution, there is a risk of lack of control for next year. And if there were no austerity measures, the breeze of the country's economic growth would be jeopardized. The advice of the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) is framed in the historical standard of the entity: reduce "fatness" of the State by "adjusting" the salaries of the public sector, eliminate subsidies for development in the private sector, put an end to the free public university, reform the pension system and "rationalize" social programs such as the Bolsa Familia and the Retirement for the Peasant.

According to the IBRD, if its indications are put into practice it will be possible to lower the deficit by 7% of the Gross Domestic Product. If, in addition, the economies of the provincial states were folded into the "effort", a reduction of more than 8% of the GDP would be achieved. For the Brazilian financial sector, the most important of all in this World Bank program for Brazil is the urgent reform of the pension system.

Source: El Clarin newspaper

## How technology will transform how we take care of health

Technology will be a great ally in advances related to health. The discussion was part of the panel "Technology, the future of health", presented at the Health Forum EXAM. Among the solutions highlighted were analyzes of large amounts of data (big data), joint work between new technologies and the work of health professionals, as well as an increase in the supply of mobile applications aimed at health.

"Analysis teams offer solutions that facilitate the work of the healthcare professional," said Luiz Verzeznassi, president and CEO of GE Healthcare for Latin America.

In his vision, the hospital of the future joins new technologies to a different vision of the business itself. "In my vision, well-used technology will always bring reduction in costs and improvement in patient management," he explains.

"We have to invest in technologies or we will not be able to sustain that Brazilian who will live 150 years," says the Deloitte executive.

Source: Exame Magazine

## President of Anvisa participates, in the FESP, of meeting with the ABRAIDI Source: ABRAIDI

The president of Anvisa, Jarbas Barbosa, was on November 9, at a meeting at the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo - Fiesp, with several entities of the sector regulated by the Agency. The Brazilian Association of Importers and Distributors of Products for Health - ABRAIDI - participated in the meeting, being represented by the executive director, Bruno Bezerra.

Jarbas Barbosa made a wide explanation informing that the Agency has promoted a series of measures of bureaucratization in the processes. The managing director stressed that Anvisa identified a great divergence between the Agency and the State and Municipal Health Surveillance in several aspects and that they have already initiated a dialogue to resolve and expedite a series of issues such as simplification in the process of requesting and obtaining authorization from operating authorization for companies. Regarding the national inspections, Class III and IV products, Barbosa informed that Anvisa will maintain the prerogative of carrying out such procedures, being able to delegate to States and Municipalities only with the objective of streamlining the processes.

Regarding the international inspections of factories of health products, Barbosa said that, from January to September, the Agency carried out 210 inspections to obtain the Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practices for products of Classes III and IV, being that 80 % was in the United States, Canada, France and Switzerland.

Jarbas Barbosa informed that he works with the Civil House to review the entire Anvisa fee system, including changes in the annex of the legislation that deals with the matter. Due to the increase made last year and the confusion that has arisen, the Agency is returning money to companies that have paid more. On October 3, R \$ 75.3 million was returned to nearly 8 thousand companies.

Source: ABRAIDI

## Venezuela falls back into default

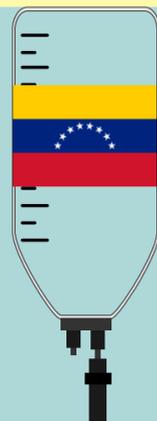
The country did not pay coupons for 237 million dollars during a 30-day grace period. S & P Global Ratings has declared in default Venezuela's bonds denominated in dollars due in 2025 and 2026 after the Latin American nation did not pay coupons for 237 million dollars during a 30-day grace period.

S & P reduced the ratings of Venezuela's global bonds to D from CC, while ratifying the long-term sovereign credit rating in foreign currency in SD. Like Fitch Ratings, the rating agency had already declared the country "default" last week, citing unpaid payments by state oil company Petróleos de Venezuela.

About a dozen institutions with Venezuelan debt have begun to organize and meet with lawyers, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The group includes Pacific Investment Management Co., T. Rowe Price Group Inc. and Amundi Pioneer, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

Venezuela's debt at 7.65% denominated in dollars due in April 2025 was at 24.43 cents on the dollar, compared to 45 cents at the beginning of the year, according to prices compiled by Bloomberg. The price of debt in US currency at 11.75% and due in October 2026 has fallen to 26.31 cents from 56.73 cents.

Source: International Portfolio Newspaper



# Venezuela

## Maduro will seek re-election in 2018

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will seek re-election for a second term in the 2018 elections, his vice president, Tareck El Aissami, announced Wednesday. Amid applause and ovations, the vice president said that the eventual re-election of Maduro will be the response to the "coup" of the opposition and the "financial persecution and sanctions" of the United States.

I have added that to the second period of Maduro will have the victories achieved by Chavismo in 2017, among which I have mentioned the election of the Constituent Assembly that governs with absolute powers since August and the regional elections, in which I have won 18 of 23 governorates in October. The candidacy of Maduro is announced two days after the beginning of a dialogue between the government and the opposition in the Dominican Republic to seek solutions to the serious political and economic crisis. Maduro was elected for the period 2013-2019 after the death of President Hugo Chávez. The elections must be held in December 2018, although opposition leaders and analysts do not rule out an advance.

Source: The Newspaper Time

## Pacific Alliance is set in Indonesia

The Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru) brought together Indonesian business leaders in Jakarta with representatives from the commercial offices of Latin American countries to promote trade and investment in the region.

"Important steps have been taken in our relationship with the Associations of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), this has led our leaders to strengthen their economic, educational, sustainable development and science cooperation," said the Colombian ambassador, José Renato Salazar.

The counselor of the commercial office Pro Mexico in Singapore, Gerson Garduño, assured that the combined market of the four American countries gives access "to 86% of the world's GDP" through trade agreements.

Indonesia is the largest economy in ASEAN and has had an average GDP growth of 5% in the last five years.

The Pacific Alliance, signed in 2012, represents 41% of GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean (the eighth largest economy in the world) and has trade agreements with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Source: Vanguardia Newspaper

## Piñera and Guillier, second round for the presidency of Chile

With 81.75% of the polling stations counted, the Chilean president reached 36.67% of the votes.

The ex-president Sebastián Piñera led Sunday the election to succeed the socialist Michelle Bachelet with 36.67% of the votes counted, insufficient to avoid a runoff with the ruling candidate Alejandro Guillier, who escorted him in the voting.

Mistakenness of the surveys

Some 14.3 million citizens were summoned to the polls to vote in a poll in which the other protagonists of the day have been the polls, which have been totally wrong, because they gave Piñera a much higher projections and Sanchez far below of the results obtained.

Eight presidential candidates, six of them center-left, aspired to succeed socialist Michelle Bachelet as of March 11 at La Moneda. In Piñera's command they try to minimize this result.

In this sense, there were calls to go to the polls, starting with the president. "It is important that people attend (vote), exercise their citizen's right and vote for whoever feels they represent what they want to

Chile," said Bachelet, who avoided making predictions about participation.

Source: El Colombiano newspaper



## Ecuador has a list and application for the acquisition of quality, safe and effective medical devices

The computer application will be ready as of January 2018, for the download of Technical Data Sheets.

The Minister of Public Health, Verónica Espinosa, presented before several representatives of the National Health System the publication of the list of essential medical devices and the computer application tools that will contribute to the acquisition and provision of quality, safe and effective medical devices.

In an event that took place at the MSP headquarters, Minister Espinosa highlighted that this is "a national achievement, since Ecuador becomes one of the first countries in the region to have a list of essential medical devices.

This tool allows to have an up-to-date database, according to the technological evolution of medical devices and the requirements of health facilities, standardizing the technical information of these products and the quick and timely access to the technical data sheets.

The Secretary of State said that having this list and the computer application for procurement processes through the public procurement portal, will allow the "rationalization of spending on medical devices. Currently, the budget allocated for the acquisition of medical devices, in terms of needs is 3 to 1. It is the second item in which most is spent in the National Health System, after human talent. This means that resources will be saved that will be re-channeled into the same system.

Verónica Espinosa explained, in addition, that this process "also opens the door to other dreams, because it begins to generate sovereignty in the production of medical devices, by having a list, it knows which devices are required and can be recommended to the industry and generate economic returns and sources of employment, being strategic allies".

Source: Ministry of Public Health

# Ecuador

## In three days more adjustments will be made to the economic law

The second part of the debate of the Law called Economic Reactivation carried out yesterday. The normative body received criticism from the opposition sector, but also from the PAIS Alliance block. Thus, with the intervention of 29 assembly members in total the first debate in the Plenary of the Assembly was terminated ... After the debate, the Commission of Economic Regime began with the process of elaboration of the new report for the second debate. The Association of Private Banks of Ecuador asked the Executive to withdraw the bill that would allow banks to take charge of the management of electronic means of payment. The president of the union, Julio Prado, said that, after a technical analysis, the Association finds several threats to the economy of the citizens. According to the bank, the document does not meet the objective of reactivating the national economy and rejected the transfer of liquidity to the private financial sector. Prado said there are measures that would create a risk of bankruptcy.

Source: The Universe Journal



## The state of the medical device market in Peru in 2017

As has happened with the rest of Latin America, Peru has suffered a recession and has had economic problems in recent years. There is a projected increase of 3.5% for the country's GDP during the second half of 2017 and a projected growth of 4.2% for the whole of 2017.

And according to the extensive data compiled by Global Health Intelligence (GHI), the market for medical equipment and devices in Peru is still lagging compared to other parts of LatAm. It is predicted that there will be a decrease of 14% in 2017 in terms of the value of medical equipment imported into the country, which comes after two consecutive years of growth.

Global Health Intelligence projects that the total value of medical equipment and devices imported to Peru will total US \$ 389 million in 2017.

According to the figures on imports analyzed by GHI, it is forecast that Peru will close 2017 with a total of 636 million units of equipment and medical devices imported into the country.

In terms of general quantities, in reality the figures for Peru really skyrocketed: there was a 48% growth in the quantities of medical equipment / devices imported to Peru compared to 2016. Although there were increases in the amount of imported equipment in 2016 and 2015 were modest: 7% in 2016 and 6% in 2015. Therefore, despite the decrease in value, the increase in quantity suggests a strong demand for medical equipment in Peru in 2017.

Source: Global Health Intelligence



## Peruvian economy grew 3.18% in September

The result surpasses the projections of the economic agents who expected a 3.10%. The national GDP accumulates a growth of 2.38% in the first nine months of the year. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 3.18%, adding 98 months of uninterrupted growth. Thus, the Peruvian economy accumulates an expansion of 2.38% in the first nine months of the year and 2.55% in the last twelve months (October 2016-September 2017), reported the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI).

According to the entity, this improvement in the productive capacity of Peru is explained, firstly, by the favorable evolution of external demand. This resulted in a greater total volume exported (17.66%), both traditional (21.91%) and non-traditional (5.04%). The institute also highlights, as the second driving factor for the economy, the recovery of domestic demand evidenced in the increased imports of non-durable consumer goods (14.59%), retail sales (1.95%) and loans of consumption (1.38%).

Source: El Comercio Newspaper

## The numbers of the public debt almost did not vary with respect to the end of the Kirchnerism

The percentage of debt in relation to GDP fell by half a percentage point: from 54.2 to 53.7% between June 2016 and the same month of 2017, according to the latest report of the Ministry of Finance.

Figures from the National Office of Public Credit offer another interesting conclusion: most of the debt indicators do not present a significant change compared to the photo at the end of 2015, when Kirchnerism left office.

The ratio of the debt in dollars to the international reserves of the Central Bank in 2010 was 185%, in 2015 it was 582.4% and in 2017 it fell to 408%. In relation to tax resources, the percentage of interest paid was 5.4% in 2010, 7.9% in 2015 and 10% in June.

The total gross public debt came in June to US \$ 307,295 million and, without the GDP-linked coupon, to 293,789 million. The arrears of the debt reach 2832 million dollars and the remaining amount to be paid from the PBI coupon to 13.506 million dollars.

In terms of currencies, 32% of the debt is denominated in pesos and the rest in foreign currency; of this second group, 59.3% is in dollars, 6.6% in euros, 0.4% in yen and the rest in other currencies.

Regarding debt with multilateral organizations, it reached 6016 million dollars with the World Bank, 11,277 million dollars with the IDB and 2,664 million dollars with the CAF, according to the Finance data. The total maturities for 2017 are 34,065 million dollars, while for 2018 it amounts to 41,036 million dollars.

Meanwhile, Baer said that "the picture is not worrying in terms of the debt to GDP ratio, the film can be with this level of deficit and the time of foreign currency in relation to total debt."

Source: La Nación Newspaper

## Macri took oath to the new ministers of Agroindustry and Health: " They are incorporated into the spirit of permanent reformism"

President Mauricio Macri took the oath on Tuesday afternoon to the new ministers of Agribusiness, Luis Miguel Etchevehere, and Health, Adolfo Rubinstein. In a brief ceremony in the White Room of the Casa Rosada, the head of State put in function to the new ministers who replace Ricardo Buryaile and Jorge Lemus.

The profile of the officials

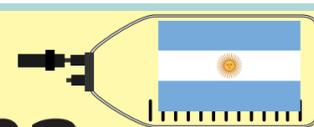
The new Minister of Agribusiness, Luis Etchevehere, is a lawyer and agricultural producer and was the owner of Sociedad Rural Argentina between 2012 and 2017.

Last September he was appointed vice president of the World Farmers Organization (WCO).

The new Minister of Health, Adolfo Rubinstein, is a graduate physician as a magister in Clinical Epidemiology at the School of Public Health at Harvard in 1996 and a Doctor of Medicine with orientation in Public Health from the UBA in 2001. In addition, he graduated in Economics from International Health at the University of York. In February of this year he assumed the position of Secretary of Health Promotion, Prevention and Risk Control of the Ministry of Health of the Nation.

Source: professional.com website

# Argentina



## They successfully test an artificial pancreas developed in Argentina

An automatic control system that performs the functions of the pancreas to regulate blood glucose levels developed in the country was presented on Tuesday, with successful clinical trials. This is the ARG - Automatic Regulation of Glucose -, an algorithm that commands the insulin infusion pump in people with type 1 diabetes, the work of researchers from the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) working at the headquarters of the Technological Institute of Buenos Aires (ITBA), National University of La Plata (UNLP) and National University of Quilmes (UNQ).

The first phase of this clinical trial took place in 2016 at the Hospital Italiano, which used an algorithm developed at the University of Virginia, United States, which required the patient to calculate and record in the system how many grams of carbohydrates he will eat so that the pump infuses the necessary insulin.

In June 2017, the second phase was carried out with the ARG algorithm of the ITBA-CONICET, which only requires that the start of the meal be recorded, without the need to calculate how many grams of carbohydrates will be consumed. Five adult patients, male and female, participated in this stage, who were able to maintain glucose levels within an acceptable range during the 36 hours in which the artificial pancreas was tested.

The objective of this system is to automatically regulate the blood sugar value, without the need for the patient to perform the usual insulin corrections in the management of type 1 diabetes.

Although the results are promising, it is necessary to continue studies with the participation of a greater number of people. It is possible that in the near future this new technology will benefit many insulin-dependent patients.

Source: Argentine Pharmaceutical Confederation (COFA)

## Medical devices of the future that the health professional should know

The development of medical devices in Mexico augurs a promising future, so much that this research of this kind of technological resources grows around 5 percent per year in our country.

According to the AMID, 83% of the companies affiliated to the medical device industry frequently update their range of products, especially for the Mexican market, with the aim of treating the diseases that afflict the population in a less invasive way. In this context, AMID announced a list of five medical devices of the future that every health professional should know:

3D printing for medical devices: 3D printing is currently more common in dental pieces and orthopedic implants, since these are adapted to the measurement that the patient requires. In this way, scientists are now focused on how machines can be used to develop living members such as the liver and the heart.

Microimplants for the regulation of organs: The microimplants will allow to regulate the activity of the organs so that they have a better functioning.

Intelligent surgery room: The bet is that all medical devices within the room have data transfer

Cardiovascular remodeling: The industry expects that, in the medium term, both the wireless pacemaker and the resynchronizer and automatic defibrillators will be increasingly common in public health systems.

Molecular diagnostics: From a sample of tissue or blood, the mutated genetic material that is associated with cellular changes that are related to different diseases is extracted. In a matter of minutes, the devices analyze and diagnose the patient's condition.

Source: Saludiaro.com



# México

## Mexico, leader in medical devices in Latin America: Cofepris

The main investment centers in medical devices are located in Mexico City, the State of Mexico, Morelos, Sonora, Baja California, Jalisco and Chihuahua.

The production of medical devices in Mexico reaches a value of 15,220 million dollars, placing our country as the largest market in Latin America.

"The medical device industry is undoubtedly strategic in economic development and health care. We have an agile regulatory framework, support programs, competitive infrastructure and a special customs regime that allows us to maintain and increase the productivity of this sector and we continue working to provide quality, safe and effective medical devices," he said during his participation in the Meeting "Innovation in the Medical Devices Industry".

Sánchez and Tépoz explained that the Mexican medical device industry attracted almost 2,000 million dollars of accumulated foreign direct investment in the period 2005-2015, and in many fields we are in the first places of export, since we are the third largest exporter in the world of tubular suture needles; the fourth exporter of instruments and devices for medicine, surgery, dentistry or veterinary medicine; the fourth exporter of furniture for medicine, surgery, dentistry or veterinary and the fourth world exporter of syringes, catheters, cannulas and similar instruments.

He said that the United States is the leading producer of medical devices with 253,000 million dollars, followed by China with 147,000 million dollars. From 2015 to 2020 an annual growth rate of 6.2% is estimated for this industry. The United States is not only the main producer, but also the main consumer of devices in the world, which places Mexico in a privileged position and a large part of the exports go to that nation (8,406 million dollars).

Source: El Economista Newspaper