



## ***New Amendment to the rules on prescribing and dispensing medicines and health products***

### **OVERVIEW:**

*The seventh amendment to the legal regime that governs the prescription and dispensing of medicines and health products and that defines the information obligations to be provided to patients was published today in the Official Gazette.*

*Ordinance 263/2023 aims to promote the implementation of a set of additional measures to promote access to medicines.*

### **AIMS:**

*With regard to medicines and medical devices policy, the aim is to give continuity to measures to optimise electronic prescribing and rationalise its use by consolidating dematerialisation processes.*

*The aim is to free the prescribing doctor from administrative tasks and to simplify the process for patients with chronic pathologies, clinically stabilised, so as to avoid them having to go to the health services just to renew their prescription.*

*In addition, the changes promoted by this ordinance aim to reduce bureaucracy in the patient's access to prescribed medicines, namely through the use of the National User Number and the use of written messages (SMS) and/or other electronic mechanisms, avoiding the need to obtain and submit an individualised medical prescription.*

*New communication tools between the prescribing doctor and the pharmacist are also being made available to enable better guidance and follow-up of the patient.*

*Lastly, the changes introduced are intended to ensure the development and application of business intelligence tools for monitoring prescriptions and dispensing, as well as strengthening the fight against waste and fraud in the National Health Service.*

### **APPLICATION OVER TIME:**

*This Ordinance comes into force on 18 August, and the adaptation of the technical standards, prescription systems, dispensing and checking in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance will take place no later than 90 days after its publication.*

*The validity terms for prescriptions set out in the Ordinance will only apply once the adaptation has been made operational.*

*For prescriptions with an issue date prior to the publication of this Ordinance and for prescriptions issued during the adaptation period, where it is not possible to determine the quantity to guarantee treatment for two months, the rules in force prior to the entry into force of this Ordinance shall apply.*

*We recommend a close reading of the Ordinance, available at:*

*<https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/portaria/263-2023-219991258>*

*The Ordinance mentions medicines intended for short or medium-term treatment or for long-term treatment, so it is also recommended to read Tables 1 and 2 approved in the annex to Ordinance no. 1471/2004, of 21 December, available at:*

*[https://www.infarmed.pt/documents/15786/1072289/portaria\\_1471\\_2004.pdf](https://www.infarmed.pt/documents/15786/1072289/portaria_1471_2004.pdf)*

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