

# LatAm Healthcare Pulse

## Key data and perspectives on **patient care**

# Brazil

GHX has been monitoring health care trends in Latin America throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Interviewing physicians, surgeons, and medical staff for a regular look to understand how the pandemic, global medical supply chains, and government policy are affecting patient health outcomes and healthcare market dynamics.

In this brief, we report key insights and local medical perspectives from Brazil in the first quarter of 2021, from primary research conducted with experts in cardiology, neurology, embryology, and other areas of general surgery.

### General

- General, non-emergency surgeries have fallen across the board by an estimated 40% since the onset of the pandemic.
- Hospitals predict they will register pandemic patient and procedure volumes by the first or second quarter of 2021. The increase will be gradual over the course of the next 12-18 months, and is contingent on Progress of vaccination.
- The pandemic will lead to definitive changes in how health care is delivered, with physicians and hospitals already preparing for future trends:
  - Hospitals are planning for and investing in patient screening technology and new safety protocols, such as:
  - The goal is to minimize human interactions, wait times, and any unnecessary touchpoints. Smartphone apps are likely to be the first innovation to accelerate patient in-care, with more surgical and patient screening technology coming thereafter.

"Today, upon arrival at the hospital, patients go through trauma screening, usually performed by a nurse or technician. These nurses will probably be replaced by robots (machines) to measure blood pressure, temperature, oximetry, heart rate and even a small ECG, and will also be able to answer questions."

—Orthopedic surgeon and traumatology specialist, large private hospital, São Paulo, Brazil Q1-Q2 2021