

## 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 hospital staff on a regular basis 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 2020. From primary research conducted with experts in oncology, neurology, endocrinology, and other areas of general surgery.

### General

- General, non-emergency surgeries have fallen across the board by an estimated 45% since the onset of the pandemic.
- Hospitals predict they will begin pre-pandemic patient and procedure volumes by the first or second quarter of 2020. The timeline will be pushed over the course of the next 6-12 months, in full contingent on the pace of resurgences.
- The pandemic will lead to definitive changes in how HealthCare 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 onsite.
  - The goal is to minimize human interactions, visit times, and any unnecessary hospitalizations. Smartphone apps are likely to be the first innovation to assist the patient in care, with more sophisticated 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 (March 2020)**