



Review

The history of the construction of the Consolidation Ordinances of the Unified Health System: a normative milestone

A história de construção das Portarias de Consolidação do Sistema Único de Saúde: um marco normativo

La historia de la construcción de las Ordenanzas de Consolidación del Sistema Único de Salud: un hito normativo

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Abstract

To present, through an analytical review, the work 'Consolidation, Simplification, and Review of the Infralegal Normative Arch of Health: one project, many voices', published by CONASS, which narrates the biographical history of a pioneering and innovative project in consolidating the infralegal normative arch of the Unified Health System.

Keywords: Unified Health System; Health Law; Consolidation Ordinances.

Resumo

Apresentar, por meio de resenha analítica, a obra 'Consolidação, Simplificação e Revisão do Arco Normativo Infralegal da Saúde: um projeto, muitas vozes', publicado pelo CONASS e que narra a história biográfica de um projeto pioneiro e inovador da consolidação do arco normativo infralegal do Sistema Único de Saúde.

Palavras-chave: Sistema Único de Saúde; Direito Sanitário; Portarias de Consolidação.

Resumen

Presentar, a través de una reseña analítica, la obra 'Consolidación, Simplificación y Revisión del Arco Normativo Infralegal de la Salud: un proyecto, muchas voces', publicada por CONASS y que narra la

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historia biográfica de un proyecto pionero e innovador en la consolidación del arco normativo infralegal del Sistema Único de Salud.

Palabras clave: Sistema Único de Salud; Derecho Sanitario; Ordenanzas de Consolidación.

This analytical review aims to present the book ‘Consolidação, Simplificação e Revisão do Arco Normativo Infralegal da Saúde: um projeto, muitas vozes’⁽¹⁾, launched on March 20, 2024, during the Assembly of the National Council of Health Secretaries (Conass). The book represents the biographical history of a pioneering and innovative project to consolidate the infralegal regulatory framework of the Unified Health System (SUS).

Organized by Alethele Santos, Márcio Aranha, Maria Célia Delduque and Sandra Alves, this book is constructed in straightforward narrative language and creative illustrations. It describes, in chronological order, the formulation and development of the project in three stages, highlighting the technical arrangements, political and legal frameworks adopted, as well as the facilities and difficulties faced over the course of more than two years. The speeches and testimonies of the project participants are also highlighted, in a necessary acknowledgment of the work of each collaborating professional who brought the project to fruition and made this extremely important regulatory milestone happen.

The book is divided into three chapters. The first, “Every journey begins with the first steps”, recounts the SusLegis-1 project, the birthplace of all the work to organize and give legality to the huge and complex constellation of ordinances issued by the health minister's office, the so-called GM Ordinances. This chapter should be read several times, because in addition to the lightness of the text, interspersed with highlights of the collaborators' speeches, it guides the reader through the successive chronologically organized stages in the construction of the projects.

In Chapter 2, entitled “SusLegis-2: the second phase will be easier, but not that easy!”, the authors humorously describe the most complex regulatory organization project ever carried out in Brazil's republican history. The chapter reports on the training experience, carried out in partnership with the University of Brasilia, which taught SUS operators from all over Brazil how to handle the Consolidation Ordinances published at the time in the Federal Official Gazette and then in force. The illustrations speak for themselves!

The third and final chapter, entitled “Legisus: the possible, the impossible and the unthinkable”, brilliantly closes the book, discusses the completion of the projects and the success that accompanies them to this day, and also points to the future, projecting the wish that, perhaps, the Brazilian authorities will always be careful with the normative organization that gives legal support to our SUS.

In addition to these accounts, the book pays posthumous tribute to two of the project's most important collaborators: Lourdes Almeida and Luiz Carlos Pelizari Romero.

By the end of the text, the reader will have a clear understanding of its title, as it aptly illustrates the collective construction of the project, considering the many voices that took part in the three stages and that narrate this story, and in fact constitute the driving forces behind this achievement.

From what has been said so far in this review, which is only a glimpse of the whole, we recommend reading it without regret to anyone who is directly or indirectly involved in the country's health sector and to anyone who enjoys a good, well-told story.

Access the virtual version (<https://www.conass.org.br/biblioteca/suslegis/>).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Authors' contribution

Mendes DSGJ and Rodrigues MESN contributed to the conception/design of the review, data analysis and interpretation and the drafting of the review. Montagner MA contributed to the critical review of its content and approval of the final version.

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