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The joint stock companies established by the former Government in public hospitals were changed to Company Public Entities (CPE), although keeping the same management core, the main difference is that private companies could not be shareholders.

In this CPE, the new workers are no long public servants but the labour agreement is made on an individual basis and for limited periods of time.

These changes opened the discussion about medical careers and how to keep them as a guarantee of quality assurance in health care units.

The new Internship regulation was implemented giving to the Portuguese Medical Association (PMA) an important role in the hole process.

Accreditation of health Departments' quality to have young doctors in training, elaborate the qualification programmes, appoint the jury for the examination to be a specialist, are now Portuguese Medical Association's competences.

A new Law-Decree concerning Health Primary Care was published, creating an alternative to public primary health care units, based on medical group initiatives.

The Health Ministry announced, in the Portuguese Medical Association Congress, the end of prescription's substitution in pharmacies, which was an old claim of PMA.

The former Government had created the Health Regulating Authority, where all health care units and individual doctors with private medicine have to be registered. This was not accepted by the Portuguese Medical Association and the new Government agreed in lowering the costs for the registration, but the PMA is still trying to show that Medical Associations are the only regulating authorities for doctors.