

NEWSLETTER
HEALTHCARE
26 January – 1 February 2026



China plans to expand cover for childbirth-related bills

China plans to expand maternity insurance coverage for prenatal checkups, aiming to make childbirth nearly free of charge nationwide by 2026. The policy responds to demographic shifts, including declining birth rates and an aging population. The plan also promotes participation in maternity insurance for flexible workers and migrants. This initiative is part of a broader effort to ease financial burdens on families. **(China Daily)**

Scientists alter mast cells to fight cancerous tumors

Chinese scientists have developed a novel cancer therapy by reprogramming mast cells, the body's allergy-causing cells. These engineered cells are loaded with cancer-killing viruses and guided by tumor-specific antibodies to selectively target and attack tumors. In addition to delivering the virus, the mast cells amplify the immune response by recruiting other immune cells to join the fight. **(China Daily)**

Nation to intensify fight against chronic diseases

China is intensifying its fight against chronic diseases like cancer and respiratory illnesses. The strategy focuses on an integrated service model covering prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. This effort aims to raise the national average life expectancy to around 80 years. Enhanced early screening, public awareness, and strengthened healthcare collaboration are key priorities. **(China Daily)**

Breakthrough in BMI (Brain-Machine Interface) tech aids patients

Two Chinese patients with paralysis have used implanted BMI technology to control a power wheelchair and robotic dog with their thoughts. This breakthrough enables new levels of physical interaction and self-care, marking a step toward practical clinical applications. The team achieved significant technological advancements, including ultra-low-latency signal transmission and the world's smallest implant. **(China Daily)**

Government funding eases access to healthcare

Since 2018, China has invested 3 trillion yuan (361.1 billion euro) in healthcare subsidies, supporting over 18 billion medical reimbursements. The funding has bolstered the basic medical insurance system, with the government covering over 60% of premiums for residents. A national digital platform now enables 1.2 billion people to access services more conveniently. **(China Daily)**