

# HealthTech



## Why China?

With China's rapidly changing demographics, including the growing middle class, rapid urbanization, an aging population and rising prevalence of chronic diseases, a significant shift in the country's healthcare needs has occurred. Despite the quick expansion of the health sector, disparities between rural and urban settings and among hospitals of different levels still exist.

To address these disparities and mitigate the pressure on offline healthcare facilities, China is actively facilitating the development of health technology. As one of the key initiatives, China has heavily invested in the growth of internet hospitals - typically offshoots of offline medical organizations and the combination of the internet and healthcare.

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As of the end of 2022, China is home to more than

**1,700** internet hospitals with over

**300** million users

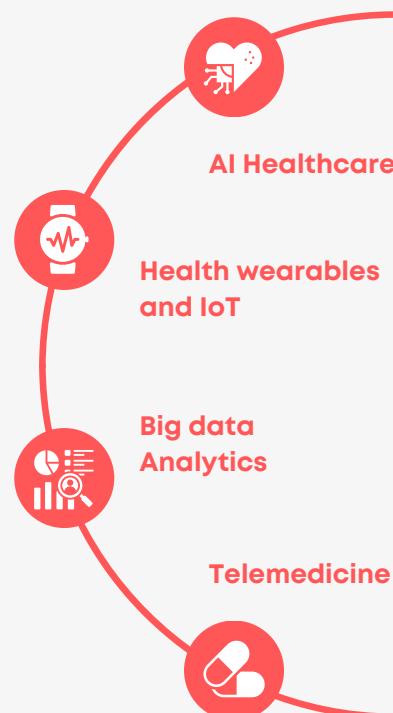
A projected growth of up to **45%**

of Chinese healthcare expenses by 2030 makes it one of the fastest-growing markets for HealthTech.

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From online doctor consultations and service bookings to AI-assisted patient diagnosis, patient screening, and health management, China's HealthTech sector is expected to flourish with abundant opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Opportunities for Swiss startups, corporate innovators and academic researchers in the Chinese market come from, but not limited to, the following subsectors:**



## Key Drivers in the Ecosystem

### Policy

The Chinese government has issued a raft of policies to support the HealthTech sector. Particularly, the government is focused on promoting the development of “Internet + health” to improve innovative HealthTech solutions and improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services in China. The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) identifies the key scenarios of HealthTech including internet hospitals, long-distance hospitals, online health consulting and health management.

### Corporate

Major Chinese technology powerhouses, Tencent Holdings, Alibaba Group, and Baidu, have been actively investing in the healthcare industry through their own development or partnerships. Notably, China’s largest insurance company Ping An Insurance has established technology subsidiaries including digital platforms for online medical services and institutes featuring the development of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

### Entrepreneurship

Leading players such as Tencent, Ping An Insurance and Alibaba have launched venture capital funds to invest in HealthTech startups. Alibaba Group has increased its investments in AI healthcare companies, both domestic and international, which aim to use big data to impact medical decisions, services, and management. There are nearly 1,800 HealthTech startups, largely focusing on connecting patients with providers to address real patient needs and to close the access gap.

### Academia

China has a number of top-tier universities that are engaged in healthcare technology, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, and Fudan University. These institutions have established dedicated research centers and institutes focused on healthcare technology. One of the key areas of focus for healthcare technology research in China is AI, with a particular emphasis on using AI to improve medical diagnosis and treatment.

## Contact

Swissnex in China offers our services to Swiss startups, corporates and academic partners looking to dive further into the healthtech ecosystem in China.

Please reach out to Philippe Roesle at [philippe.roesle@swissnex.org](mailto:philippe.roesle@swissnex.org) for any inquiries.

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