



Universal Healthcare in China —— Recent Reforms in Greater Bay Area



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Background



WHO Core Definition

Comprehensive coverage, prevention of economic risks, and high-quality services throughout the entire process



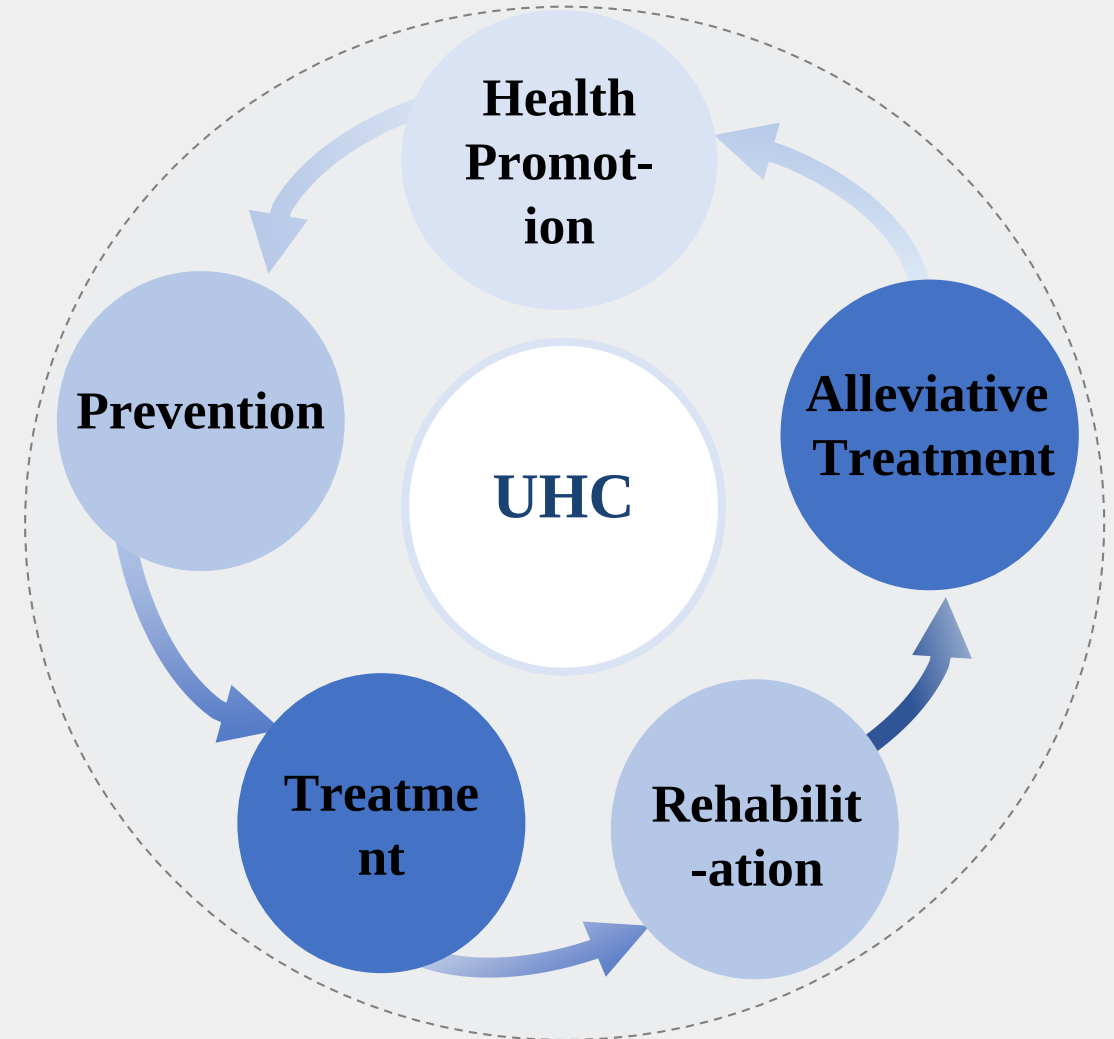
Healthy China 2030

Comprehensive intervention and full life cycle maintenance



Core Coupling

Transition from "Medical Coverage for Illness" to the Paradigm of "Active Health"



Everyone has access to all types of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship

Policy Background: Outline Development Plan for the GBA



01 Official Endorsement

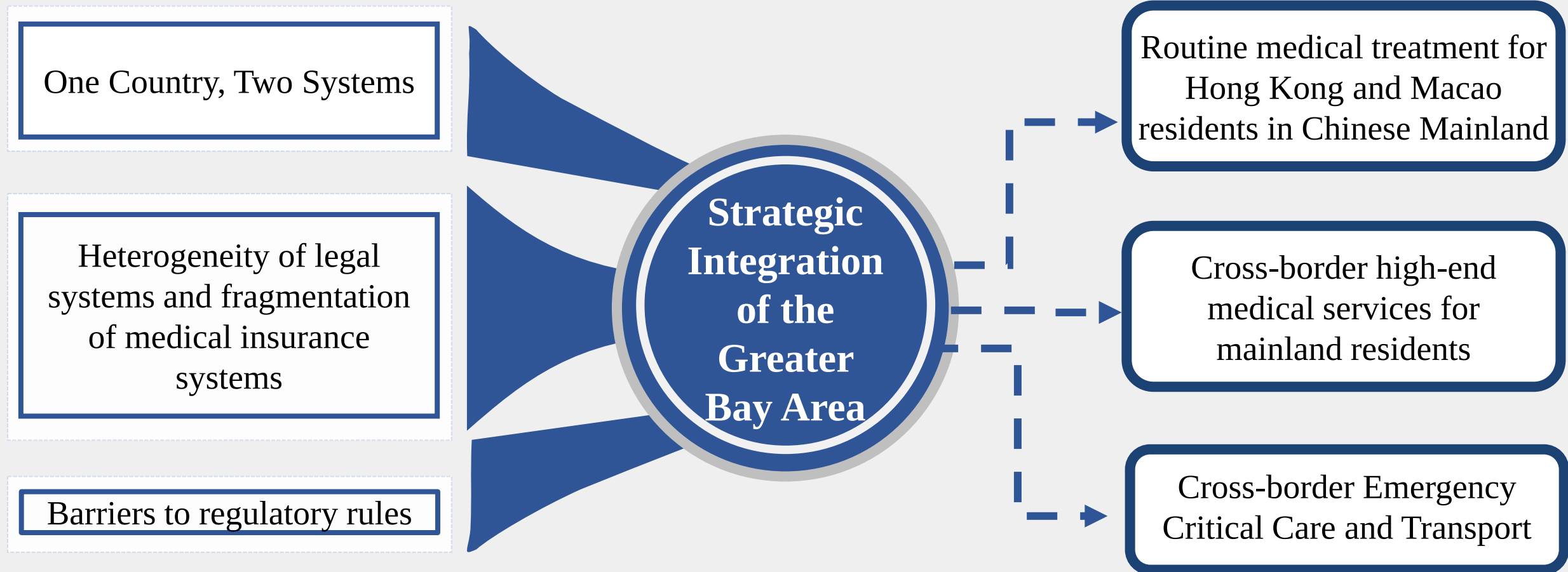
Jointly issued by the **Central Committee of the CPC** and the **State Council** in February 2019, this landmark document establishes the authoritative strategic foundation for the GBA's integrated development.



03 Vision for Health

The Plan envisions a "Healthy Bay Area," emphasizing **cross-border medical collaboration**, optimized flow of quality healthcare resources, and the **internationalization and standardization of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)**.

Guiding Blueprint: This document serves as the cornerstone for all subsequent healthcare reforms, cross-border medical services, and public health initiatives, ensuring the GBA's development aligns with national strategic goals.



**The Greater Bay Area Mission:
A National Pilot Zone for Institutional Innovation and High-Quality Medical Resource Sharing**



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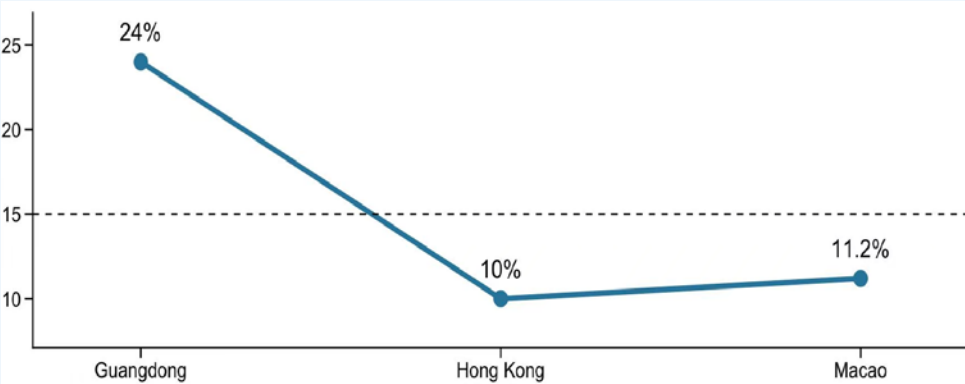
Contents



1. Health Promotion

Cross-border collaborative tobacco control

Smoking rate decreases in the Greater Bay Area



Health Education Platform

- “YueJianTong” Health and Medical Service Platform
- Interdisciplinary think tank
- Rate of willingness to perform CPR 53% 96%
- Pressing specification rate 15% 82%

Corporate Health Promotion

- Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Conducts Publicity Campaign on Work Injury Insurance Policies
- Occupational Safety and Health Card
- Zhuhai Dahengqin Group awarded the title of "Four-Star Health Cell Unit in Zhuhai City"

2.Prevention



2.Prevention



- **COPD has been officially included in the National Essential Public Health Service Program**

The Community Health Service Center of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone has launched free specialized health examinations for COPD patients.

- **Preventive Function of Zhuhai's First Active Health Demonstration Center**

Relying on genetic technology to conduct screening for major diseases, identifying at-risk populations based on disease spectra, and enhancing public health standards.

- **Major Special Project on "Four Major Chronic Diseases" in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

The research team led by Professor Guangjun Yu (于广军) from the Faculty of Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong has received funding from the National Science and Technology Program for the Major Special Project on 'Four Major Chronic Diseases'.

3.Treatment- (1) Access to Cross-border Medical Services



Cultivating Hong Kong-style Gold Medal Family Physicians in Chinese Mainland

Exploring the "General Practice First, Specialized Care Later" Healthcare Model in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's "Senior Healthcare Voucher" Expanded to 19 hospitals, plus 2 community service points, forming 21 service outlets across the GBA.

There has been a surge in the number of elderly residents from Hong Kong and Macao participating in Chinese Mainland's basic medical insurance program.

Implementation of bidirectional direct transfer mechanism for cross-border ambulances

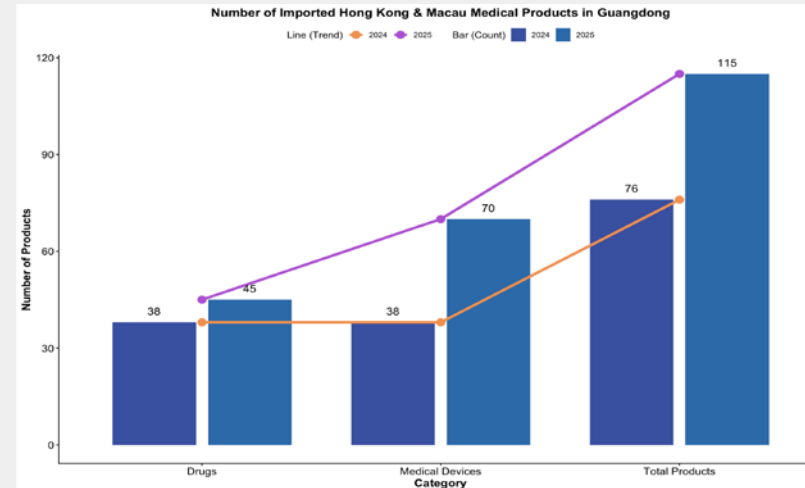
The first batch of 25 International Medical Service Pilot Hospitals were benchmarked against international diagnostic and treatment standards



3.Treatment- (2) the Hong Kong-Macao Medicine and Medical Device Connect Scheme

71 institutions

Designated medical institutions in nine cities within the Greater Bay Area



Benefited nearly **20000** patients with rare diseases/cancer

149 Species

Cumulative introduction of marketed cutting-edge innovative medicines and medical devices from Hong Kong and Macao

Break core barriers to achieve seamless integration of regional clinical medication practices with international frontiers



3.Treatment-(3)Medical Insurance

Public Basic Medical Insurance Network

>70%

Direct settlement
rate for
interprovincial
hospitalization

Promote 'instant settlement'
of basic medical insurance
funds to alleviate the
financial burden of upfront
payments for patients with
critical illnesses

**Alleviating the burden of out-
of-area medical treatment**

Commercial Health Insurance Synergy



Interoperability of
underlying data



Establish a cross-border direct
compensation channel without
upfront payment



**Achieve seamless integration and rapid
claims settlement in commercial insurance**

Constructing a Multi-layered and Comprehensive Cross-border Medical Economic Protection Network

4. Rehabilitation

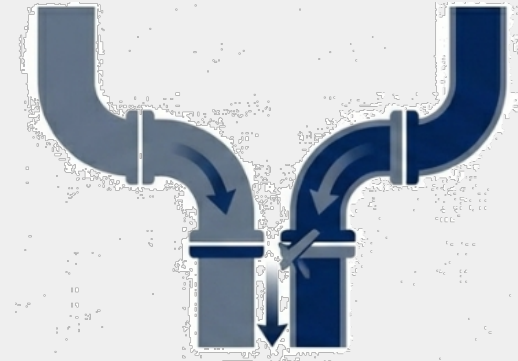
Technological Innovation and Service Extension



Shenzhen Port Hong Kong Residents Health Service Center: Introduction of **Brain-Computer Interface** and **Cognitive-Motor Rehabilitation**

The collaborative pilot project on integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine for **knee osteoarthritis** between Guangzhou and Hong Kong has been expanded to **5** public hospitals.

Long-term Care and Payment Bottlenecks



Progress: Long-term care insurance benefits **130,000** disabled individuals, exploring cross-border elderly care standards

Blind Spot: Chinese Mainland's long-term care insurance isn't fully extended to Hong Kong and Macao residents, and cross-border payment standards for professional rehabilitation remain ununified.

4. Rehabilitation



**一带一路 2025中国康复医学会粤港澳大湾区康复论坛
暨广东省康复医学会综合学术年会**



Under the theme "Integrating the Greater Bay Area, Jointly Building a Rehabilitation Path," the forum aims to foster in-depth collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao in areas such as rehabilitation standards, technological integration, and talent development.

This forum marks the transition of cross-border collaboration in rehabilitation medicine within the Greater Bay Area from practical exploration to institutionalization and systematization.

5. Palliative Care and Whole Life-cycle Care

Early Intervention

- Break the limitation of terminal stage
→ Start soon after cancer diagnosis
- Initiate palliative intervention within 8 weeks

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

- Doctors, nurses, social workers, psychotherapists



Full-region Coverage

- Throughout all stages of 'inpatient-outpatient-community-home'
- Continuity of care

Population Expansion

- Extending from late-stage tumors to heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and the frail elderly population

Current Challenges:

- Standard mutual recognition
- Gaps in palliative subsidies
- Cultural barriers to good death

5. Palliative Care and Whole Life-cycle Care

Shenzhen Second People's Hospital ↔ Hong Kong Jockey Club Shan Ning Centre



Patient: Mr. Wang, a Hong Kong resident, with the disease progressing to the end-stage.

Collaboration: Medical teams from both locations worked closely to ensure safe cross-border patient transfer

Palliative Care: Return to Hong Kong for End-of-Life Care

Cross-border collaboration workflow

Case evaluation



Two-way connectivity



Medical Transport



Hong Kong continues its governance

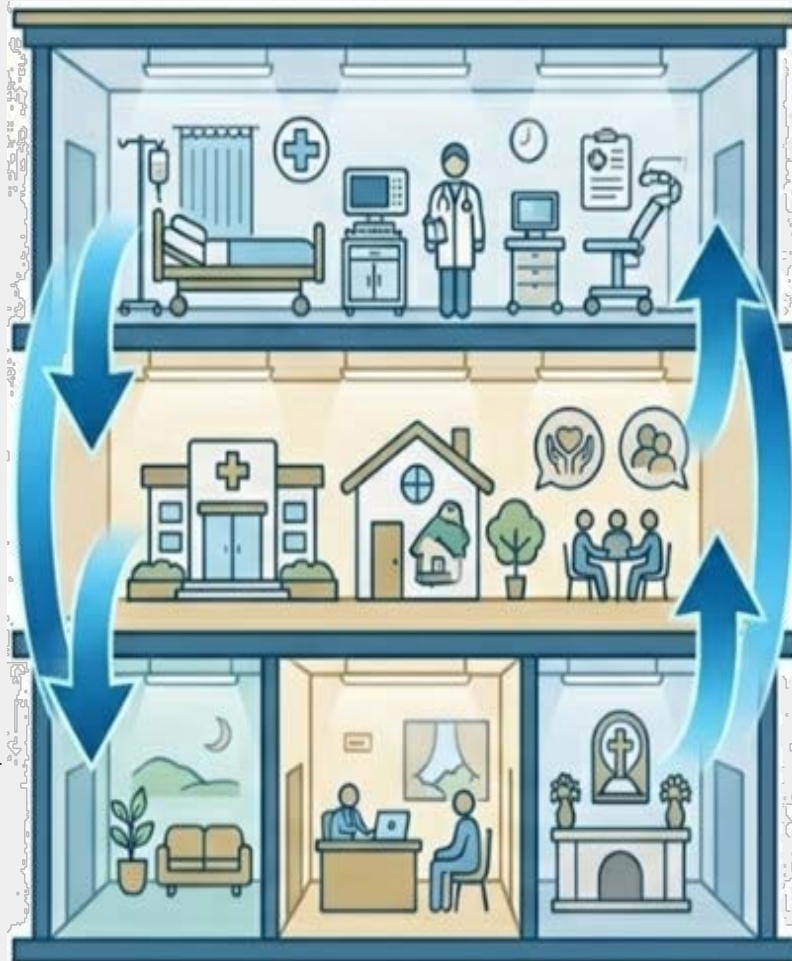
5. Palliative Care and Whole Life-cycle Care

Hong Kong : The Mature Tiered Model

Top Floor
Public Hospital
Palliative Wards

Middle Floor
Community Care
NGOs

Bottom Floor
Hospice&Bereavement
Institutions



Mainland&Macao : The Fragmented Reality



- Service provision remains fragmented.
- Severe lack of continuous, multi-disciplinary team coordination across the care continuum.



廣州醫科大學
GUANGZHOU MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

CPCE Health Conference 2026
Reviewing Universal Healthcare Coverage in the Asia-Pacific

3

Conclusion

1. International experience

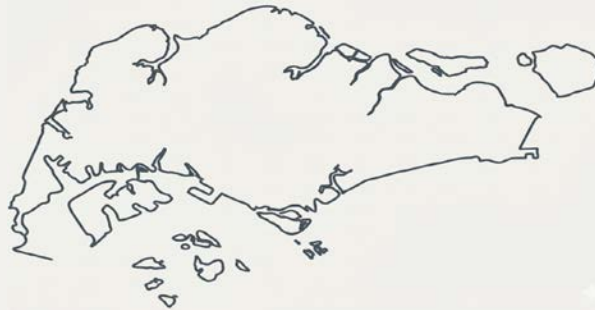
EU



Core Mechanism: Transnational Medical Integration Directive

Insight: Standardization of Reimbursement Settlement and Cross-border Direct Mutual Recognition of Physician and Nurse Practicing Qualifications

Singapore



Core Mechanism: JCI Certification Threshold and Global Commercial Insurance Direct Payment

Insight: Refined Quality Control Supports the Full-Chain High-End Cross-Border Medical Tourism

US-Mexico border



Core Mechanism: Bilateral Mutual Recognition of Medical Insurance and Emergency Green Channel

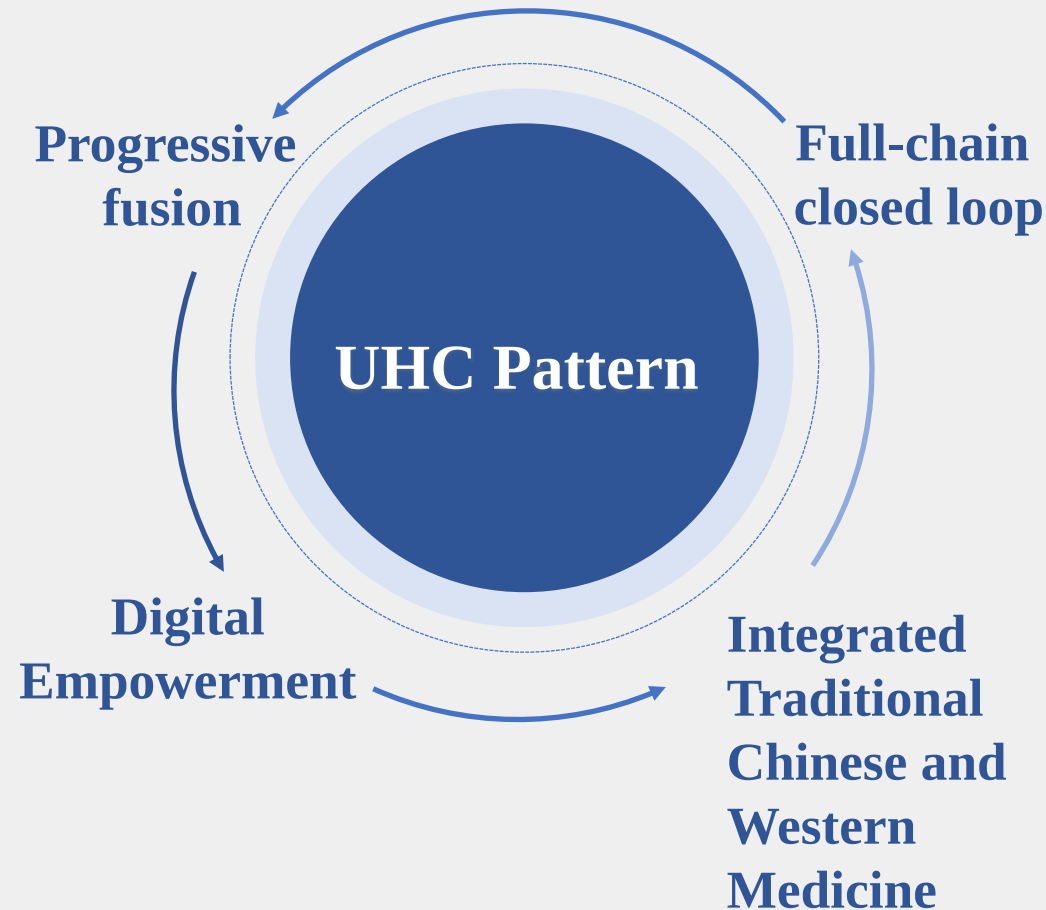
Insight: Rapid Critical Care Transport and Combined Follow-up Under Adjacent Advantage



2. UHC Pattern in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao GBA

From Single-Point Special Approval Breakthrough to Evolutionary Paradigm of Comprehensive Rule Integration

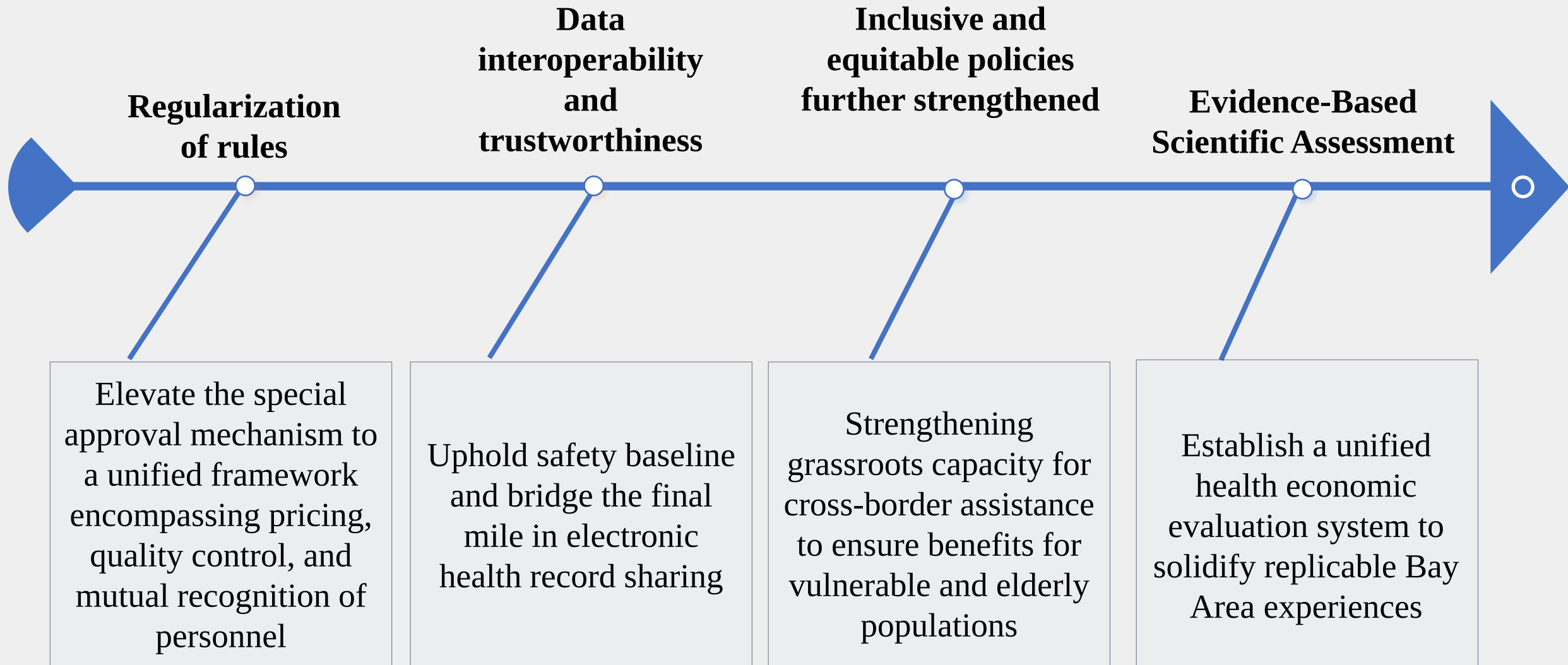
Leveraging privacy computing to break through barriers and achieve trustworthy cross-border transfer of health records



Seamless integration of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, emergency care, rehabilitation, and multi-tiered payment systems

A Characteristic Approach Integrating Lingnan Traditional Chinese Medicine Heritage with Modern Precision Medicine

3. Future expectations



3. Future expectations



The Greater Bay Area is evolving from localized convenience initiatives toward a systematic and integrated high-quality healthcare integration.



Crossing Barriers, Reimagining Paradigms



By tackling the deep-seated challenges of legal, data, and policy barriers, the region is setting a new benchmark for cross-border healthcare governance.



Thank you for your attention !

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—— Recent Reforms in Greater Bay Area



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