

China Medtech Monthly: Navigating Domestic Acceleration and Global Headwinds - June 2025

June 2025 emerged as a pivotal month for China's medical technology sector, defined by a stark and intensifying dualism. On one front, Beijing unleashed a series of aggressive domestic policies aimed at accelerating high-end device innovation, deepening systemic healthcare reform, and fostering a more competitive, self-reliant industry. This internal push was characterized by new rules to streamline localization for foreign firms, the expansion of clinical trial exemptions, and novel public-private partnerships designed to supercharge foundational research in medtech. On the other front, the industry faced its most significant international headwind to date as the European Union deployed a powerful new trade instrument to restrict Chinese medtech firms' access to its public procurement market. This action, and China's forceful response, signaled a new era of geopolitical friction with direct consequences for the sector. The month's events, from a landmark public-private R&D fund to the practical demonstration of drone-based medical delivery, are not isolated incidents but interconnected facets of China's complex strategy: to build a technologically advanced and resilient domestic medtech ecosystem while navigating an increasingly challenging global landscape.

The EU-China Medtech Trade Dispute: The IPI Measure and Its Fallout

The defining event of June 2025 was the European Union's unprecedented decision to invoke its International Procurement Instrument (IPI) for the first time, specifically targeting China's medical device industry. This action escalated trade tensions to a new level, moving beyond tariffs to direct market access restrictions and eliciting a sharp, coordinated response from Beijing.

The European Union Invokes the International Procurement Instrument

Following a vote by EU Member States on June 2, the European Commission formally imposed the IPI measures on June 19, with an effective date of June 30, 2025.¹ The regulation is a direct and potent tool designed to address perceived imbalances in market access.³

The core of the measure is twofold. First, it excludes economic operators originating in China from participating in EU public procurement tenders for medical devices with an estimated value exceeding €5 million.⁴ Second, for tenders that proceed, the successful bidder is prohibited from having more than 50% of the contract's value sourced from medical devices originating in China.⁴ This measure is slated to remain in effect for five years, with the possibility of a five-year extension, creating a long-term strategic challenge for affected companies.⁸

The EU's rationale is grounded in an investigation launched in April 2024, with findings published in January 2025. The Commission concluded that China's public procurement market applies "serious and recurrent" discriminatory barriers against EU firms and products.⁷ The investigation found that 87% of public procurement contracts for medical devices in China were subject to exclusionary measures, driven by policies such as "Buy China" and the "Made in China 2025" initiative, which mandates specific localization rates for hospital equipment.⁴ The EU stated that the IPI measure seeks to incentivize China to remove these barriers, noting that Chinese medical device exports to the EU had more than doubled between 2015 and 2023.⁴ This action represents a significant strategic shift, translating the EU's abstract "de-risking" policy into a concrete, hard-power tool aimed at enforcing reciprocity in a high-tech sector critical to China's industrial ambitions.³

<i>Measure Component</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>
Effective Date	June 30, 2025	Link [English]
Duration	5 years, with a possible 5-year extension.	Link [Chinese]
Value Threshold	Applies to EU public procurement tenders with an estimated value of €5 million or more.	Link [English]
Primary Restriction	Exclusion of tenders submitted by economic operators originating in China.	Link [English]
Sourcing Restriction	Successful tenderers are prohibited from sourcing more than 50% of the contract's value (in medical devices) from China.	Link [English]
Stated Rationale	To counter discriminatory practices in China's procurement market and incentivize reciprocal market access.	Link [English]

China's Forceful and Coordinated Rejection

Beijing's response to the IPI measure was swift, unified, and uncompromising in its rhetoric. On June 24, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) expressed "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition," labeling the EU's move as protectionism that distorts fair competition.¹⁴ The ministry stated it would take necessary measures to "firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies" and pointedly referenced its own January 2025 report that had already identified EU investment barriers against Chinese firms.¹⁵

The Chinese Foreign Ministry echoed this stance, with a spokesperson accusing the EU of "typical double standards" by moving towards protectionism while claiming to champion open markets.¹⁹ The ministry urged the EU to observe its commitments to WTO rules and provide a non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises.¹⁹ Industry groups followed suit, with the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) voicing "profound disappointment" and

calling the IPI a "unilateral instrument" that sends a "troubling signal" to the international business community.²⁰

This strong verbal response, however, highlights a strategic dilemma for Beijing. While needing to project strength, any direct retaliation against EU medtech firms operating in China would be complex. China's healthcare system still relies on certain high-end imported devices, and the government is simultaneously pursuing policies to attract, not deter, foreign R&D and manufacturing investment.²¹ This dynamic creates a powerful, if indirect, incentive for multinational corporations. As the EU makes it harder to export

from China, Beijing is making it easier to manufacture *in* China for the domestic market, reinforcing the "in China, for China" strategy many global firms are already adopting to navigate local procurement policies and supply chain risks.²³

Initial Impact and Strategic Implications

While the IPI measure is significant, its immediate financial impact may be contained. The €5 million threshold means that the majority of public tenders by volume are unaffected. However, this threshold captures a substantial portion of the market by value—estimated at around 60%—targeting high-cost equipment like advanced imaging systems (PET-CT, MRI), proton therapy systems, and large-scale hospital renovation projects.²⁴

The policy poses a direct threat to the European growth ambitions of China's leading medtech companies. While major players like Mindray Medical and United Imaging have established a foothold in Europe, their revenue from the region remains a relatively small part of their global business. For instance, Mindray derived only 8% of its 2024 revenue from Europe.²⁴ The IPI measure, therefore, is less about current revenue and more about blocking a key future growth avenue in the high-end public market.

This action is poised to reshape global medtech supply chains and investment flows. The 50% sourcing restriction will compel EU and global manufacturers winning large tenders to conduct meticulous audits of their supply chains to verify the origin of all components, increasing compliance costs and operational risks.⁷ This will likely accelerate the

diversification of manufacturing away from China for products destined for the EU market.²⁶ In parallel, Chinese companies, facing new barriers in Europe, are expected to redirect investment and export focus toward other regions. The strong presence of over two dozen Chinese firms at the Africa Health ExCon in Cairo in late June, and the announcement of a USD 100 million medical equipment factory in Egypt by China's XGY and the Arab Organization for Industrialization, are early indicators of this strategic pivot to markets in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.²⁷ The IPI thus acts as a catalyst, accelerating the fragmentation of global medtech supply chains into distinct regional blocs, forcing a new strategic calculus based on geopolitical alignment rather than purely economic efficiency.

Domestic Regulatory and Policy Momentum

While facing external pressures, China's domestic regulatory bodies, led by the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) and the National Health Commission (NHC), were exceptionally active in June, rolling out a suite of policies designed to accelerate innovation, deepen systemic reforms, and strengthen market oversight.

Accelerating the Innovation Pipeline and Localization

A primary focus of the month was on shortening the time-to-market for innovative products and encouraging local production. In a key move to attract and retain foreign technology, the NMPA issued Announcement No. 30 (2025) on June 11, further optimizing the pathway for foreign-invested enterprises to localize the manufacturing of their imported medical devices.²⁹ The policy streamlines the process by permitting the use of original registration dossiers for the domestic application and focusing quality system verification on demonstrating "substantial equivalence" between the overseas and domestic production sites.²⁹ This actively encourages MNCs to shift production to China to serve the vast domestic market, a trend confirmed by a June survey where over 50% of MNCs indicated they would consider building a

supply chain in China for China due to trade frictions.²³

Market access was further streamlined through updates to the catalog of medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs) that are exempt from clinical trials. An update referenced in June reports added 27 new device types to the list, including seven higher-risk Class III devices such as intracranial balloon dilatation delivery catheters and dialysis indwelling needles.³² This expansion, which brings the total number of exempt products to 1,047, reduces the development burden and cost for a wider range of mature technologies.³³

Driving Systemic Healthcare and Procurement Reform

Beyond product-specific regulations, government bodies pushed forward with deeper, systemic reforms. A high-profile NHC press conference on June 27 underscored the national directive to promote the "Sanming Medical Reform Experience".³⁴ This comprehensive reform model aims to sever the link between hospital revenue and device sales, centralize procurement to drive down prices through mechanisms like Volume-Based Procurement (VBP), and reorient public hospitals toward their "public welfare" function.³⁴ The conference highlighted successful implementation in Yunnan province, providing a concrete roadmap for how this foundational reform, which underpins the entire procurement landscape, will be scaled nationwide.³⁴

The rapidly growing online sales channel also came under tighter scrutiny. The NMPA issued new "Quality Management Standards for Online Sales of Medical Devices" (Announcement No. 46), which will take effect on October 1, 2025.³⁵ These rules impose clear responsibilities on e-commerce platform operators, requiring them to rigorously verify the qualifications of sellers, monitor product information for accuracy and compliance, and actively manage quality and safety risks across their platforms.³⁵

Issuing New Standards and Administrative Notices

The month was also marked by a steady stream of more routine, yet important, regulatory updates. The NMPA released 38 new medical device industry standards, including YY 0300—2025 for "Artificial Teeth for Dental Restoration," as part of its ongoing effort to standardize product quality and performance across the industry.³⁶ In a related field, Beijing municipal authorities issued new guidelines for cosmetics advertising, explicitly prohibiting medical claims and the use of medical terminology.³⁷ Throughout the month, the NMPA and its regional arms also issued numerous administrative notices, including lists of approved medical device products, information on manufacturing inspections, and notices of termination for registration reviews.³⁸

<i>Date (Approx.)</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Announcement/Policy</i>	<i>Key Impact/Significance</i>	<i>Source(s)</i>
Theme: Innovation & Approval Acceleration				
June 11	NMPA	Announcement No. 30 optimizing localization of imported medical devices.	Encourages MNCs to manufacture in China by streamlining the regulatory pathway for localized production.	Link [English]
June 24	NMPA	Release of 2025 catalog of IVD reagents exempt from clinical trials.	Reduces time-to-market and costs for a wider range of mature IVD products.	Link [Chinese]
Published in June	NMPA	Updates to Clinical Evaluation Exemption Catalog adding 27 device types.	Expands clinical trial exemptions for devices like catheters and 3D printed models, reducing development costs.	Link [English]

Theme: Market & Quality Management				
June 27	NHC	Promotion of "Sanming Medical Reform Experience" to guide public hospital reform.	Signals deepening of systemic reforms underpinning VBP and changing hospital procurement models.	Link [Chinese]
Published in June	NMPA	Announcement No. 46 issuing new quality management standards for online medical device sales (effective Oct 1).	Increases responsibility and liability for e-commerce platforms to ensure product and seller compliance.	Link [Chinese]
June 25	14 Govt. Agencies	"Key Points for Rectifying Misconduct in... 2025" issued.	Continues anti-corruption campaign with a focus on public procurement and bidding in the medical sector.	Link [English]
Theme: Industry Standards & Administrative				
June 25	NMPA	Announcement No. 59 releasing 38 new medical device industry standards.	Advances product standardization and quality control for a range of devices, including for dental restoration.	Link [Chinese]
Multiple Dates	NMPA	Routine notices on termination of medical device registration reviews.	Standard administrative actions clearing the regulatory pipeline.	Link [Chinese]

Investment and Corporate Finance Landscape

The financial and corporate landscape of China's medtech sector was highly active in June, marked by a pioneering public-private funding initiative for basic research, a strategic secondary listing to tap Southeast Asian markets, and several other notable corporate actions.

A New Model for Public-Private R&D Funding

On June 30, a landmark public-private partnership was announced with the launch of a new joint fund by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and leading private healthcare enterprises, including medtech giant Mindray Medical.⁴⁴ The fund's stated objective is to use the NSFC's guiding influence to channel private investment into basic and applied scientific research, focusing on core problems in key technology areas.⁴⁴

This initiative marks a significant evolution in China's national R&D strategy. By bringing industry titans like Mindray directly into the funding and agenda-setting process for basic science, the government is creating a "state-guided, market-driven" hybrid model. Mindray specifically stated it will collaborate with universities to tackle core components of medical imaging equipment, accelerating the domestic production of high-end devices.⁴⁴ This approach is designed to make foundational research more efficient and targeted, directly addressing the government's goal of becoming a leader in original, commercially relevant scientific discovery.

Strategic Corporate Actions

The month also saw several other significant corporate finance activities. On June 25, China Medical System Holdings, a company with both pharmaceutical and medtech interests, announced its proposal for a secondary listing on the Singapore Exchange (SGX).⁴⁵ The move is designed to attract capital from Asia-Pacific focused investors and support the company's strategic expansion into Southeast Asia, where it has already established a regional headquarters.⁴⁵

On June 27, Nanjing-based Weisi Medical (伟思医疗) announced the grant of 872,000 restricted shares to 71 core employees under its 2025 stock incentive plan, a common tool to retain talent and align employee interests with long-term corporate growth.⁴⁶ Also on June 27, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) gave its approval for the IPO registration of Shanghai Jianfa Zhixin Medical Technology Group, clearing the way for its listing.⁴⁸

<i>Date</i>	<i>News Title and Summary</i>	<i>Link to Source</i>
June 30	NSFC Launches Joint R&D Fund with Mindray Medical and Other Enterprises The National Natural Science Foundation of China partnered with medtech giant Mindray and others to create a joint fund to guide private investment into basic and applied research, focusing on core technologies for high-end devices.	Link [Chinese]
June 25	China Medical System Holdings Proposes Secondary Listing on Singapore Exchange The medtech and pharmaceutical company announced it has applied for a secondary listing on the SGX to diversify its shareholder base and tap into Southeast Asian capital markets.	Link [English]
June 27	Weisi Medical Grants Restricted Shares to Key Employees Nanjing Weisi Medical announced the grant of 872,000 restricted shares to 71 incentive objects under its 2025 Restricted Stock Incentive Plan to retain key talent.	Link [Chinese]
June 27	Shanghai Jianfa Zhixin Medical Technology Group IPO Approved The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) approved the IPO registration for Shanghai Jianfa Zhixin Medical Technology Group, a medical technology service provider.	Link [Chinese]

Innovation Pipeline: Breakthroughs and R&D

June was a productive month for China's medtech innovation pipeline, highlighted by tangible progress in applying new technologies to healthcare logistics, key product approvals, and a steady drumbeat of R&D and intellectual property-related activities.

NMPA Product Approvals and Clinical Trials

The NMPA granted approvals for several innovative medical devices during the month, including a transcatheter mitral valve clip system and a cryoablation apparatus.⁴⁹ The agency also approved numerous other devices, including various IVD test kits.⁴⁰ On the clinical trial front, a new multicenter, prospective trial was registered on June 20 for a fully degradable coronary drug-eluting stent system, indicating ongoing R&D in high-value cardiovascular implants.⁵⁰

Emerging Technology Applications and Infrastructure

Innovation in June was not confined to the laboratory. On June 26, a successful test flight in Shanghai demonstrated the practical application of drone technology for healthcare logistics. A drone carrying an emergency thoracolumbar toolkit was flown directly to the Fudan University Affiliated Cancer Hospital, marking the launch of an "air highway" for urgent medical equipment delivery.⁵¹ This collaboration between the hospital and Jienuo Medical Management Group highlights a new frontier of innovation focused on solving systemic "last mile" delivery challenges.

In another sign of infrastructure development, global life sciences company Bayer announced on June 17 that it had received its first domestic medical device registration certificate in China for a high-pressure injection system. The product will be manufactured at Bayer's new imaging diagnostics factory in Beijing, a significant milestone in the company's localization strategy.⁵² The rapid adoption of AI was also a major theme, with reports highlighting that Chinese medtech firms like United Imaging and Mindray introduced new AI-powered imaging and diagnosis solutions in June.⁵³

R&D, Intellectual Property, and Scientific Exchange

The broader R&D ecosystem remained active. The growing importance of intellectual property strategy was underscored by the China IP & Innovation Summit's medical device session, held in Suzhou from June 19-20. Experts from organizations like the CCPIT Patent and Trademark Law Office discussed the strategic use of the patent priority system in the medtech field.⁵⁴ This focus on IP was mirrored at the local level, with governments like Beijing's Mentougou district launching special funds to promote IP development and brand enhancement for local enterprises, specifically calling out support for the cardiovascular medical device sector.⁵⁵

<i>Date</i>	<i>News Title and Summary</i>	<i>Link to Source</i>
Innovation & Intellectual Property		
June 23	CCPIT Patent Office Speaks at China IP & Innovation Summit for Medtech The CCPIT Patent and Trademark Law Office participated in a major IP summit, delivering a keynote on the use of the priority rights system in the biomedical field, highlighting China's growing focus on high-quality patent strategy for medtech.	Link [Chinese]

June 24	Beijing's Mentougou District Launches 2025 IP Support Fund The Mentougou district government announced a special fund to support IP development, offering grants for foreign patent acquisition and rights protection, with a focus on the cardiovascular medical device sector.	Link [Chinese]
Clinical & Patients		
June 11	NMPA Approves Innovative Medical Devices The NMPA announced the approval of several innovative devices, including a transcatheter mitral valve clip system and a cryoablation apparatus, expanding treatment options.	Link [English]
June 20	Clinical Trial Registered for Fully Degradable Coronary Stent A multicenter, prospective clinical registration trial for the Amssorb™ fully degradable coronary drug-eluting stent system was registered, signaling advances in domestic cardiovascular device R&D.	Link [Chinese]
June 27	NHC Promotes "Blood Fee Reimbursement Without a Single Trip" Initiative As part of its public service initiatives for 2025, the National Health Commission is promoting a streamlined digital process for blood donors to receive reimbursement for blood usage fees, including for cross-province cases.	Link [Chinese]

Sales & Markets

<i>Date</i>	<i>News Title and Summary</i>	<i>Link to Source</i>
June 27	Chinese Medtech Firms Seek Expansion at Cairo Medical Expo At least 24 Chinese medical device and other healthcare companies participated in the Africa Health ExCon in Cairo, aiming to expand their presence in Egypt and the broader African healthcare market.	Link [English]
June 30	Caixin Report: Medtech Sector Performance Under Pressure, Sub-sectors Diverge An industry analysis reveals that China's medtech sector's overall performance remains under pressure, with IVD and medical equipment in a downturn while medical consumables have stabilized.	Link [Chinese]

Manufacturing & Logistics

<i>Date</i>	<i>News Title and Summary</i>	<i>Link to Source</i>
June 17	Bayer Receives First Domestic Registration for Device from Beijing Factory Bayer announced it received its first domestic medical device registration certificate in China for a high-pressure injection system, a milestone for its new imaging diagnostics factory in Beijing.	Link [Chinese]
June 27	Drone Completes First Emergency Medical Device Delivery in Shanghai A drone successfully delivered an emergency surgical toolkit to a Shanghai hospital, marking the launch of a new low-altitude logistics route to improve the efficiency of emergency medical services.	Link [Chinese]
June 27	Ningbo Customs Enforces Health Quarantine on Inbound Containers Ningbo Customs is implementing strict health quarantine measures on inbound empty containers to prevent the entry of vector-borne organisms, highlighting ongoing biosecurity controls at ports.	Link [Chinese]

June 28	China's XGY and Egypt's AOI to Build USD 100M Medical Equipment Factory China's XGY and the Arab Organization for Industrialization will establish a USD 100 million factory in Egypt to produce X-ray, MRI, CT, and ultrasound devices, aiming to supply 40% of Egypt's needs.	Link [English]
June 30	Ningxia Drug Administration Issues Q1 Inspection Report for Manufacturers The drug administration for the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region published its report on inspections of marketing authorization holders and manufacturers conducted in the first part of 2025.	Link [Chinese]

Market Pulse and Concluding Analysis

The confluence of international trade friction and vigorous domestic policy-making created a complex and challenging operating environment in June. High-level market analysis reveals a sector under pressure, yet one where long-term strategic priorities are becoming increasingly clear.

Sector Performance: A Market Under Pressure

A Caixin industry report published on June 30 offered a sobering assessment, concluding that the overall performance of China's medical device sector remains "under pressure".⁵⁶ The report pointed to a significant divergence in performance among sub-sectors. The in-vitro diagnostics (IVD) and medical equipment segments were described as still being in a "downward trend." This likely reflects the continued impact of intense price competition and the expansion of Volume-Based Procurement (VBP) into these areas.⁵⁷ In contrast, the report noted that the medical consumables segment has been the first to "stabilize," suggesting that this sub-sector may have already passed the trough of VBP's impact or is benefiting from sustained high procedure volumes that offset lower unit prices.⁵⁶ This analysis paints a picture of a market still grappling with the fundamental shifts brought about by systemic procurement reforms, even as the government continues to voice policy support for the development of high-end, innovative devices.⁵⁶

Concluding Analysis: A Bifurcated Strategy for a New Era

June 2025 brought the defining tensions of China's medtech strategy into sharp focus. The month's developments reveal a nation pursuing a bifurcated approach to building its healthcare industry, simultaneously constructing a fortress at home while navigating a siege abroad.

Domestically, the "fortress" strategy is clear. Beijing is accelerating its push for technological self-reliance and high-quality development through a suite of powerful policy tools. Initiatives to streamline localization, promote deep systemic reforms like the Sanming model, and foster foundational R&D via novel public-private partnerships are creating a fertile, if intensely competitive, domestic market.²⁹

Externally, the industry is facing a new reality. The EU's deployment of the IPI represents the most significant protectionist challenge the sector has faced to date.⁴ This action creates tangible market access barriers and reinforces the government's internal narrative on the critical need for self-sufficiency. The core challenge for every company in the sector—both domestic and multinational—is to navigate these two opposing forces. Success in this new era will demand a dual strategy: one tailored for the hyper-competitive, policy-driven domestic market, and another designed for a geopolitically complex and increasingly fragmented global market.

Forward Outlook: Key Trends to Monitor in Q3 2025

As the industry moves into the third quarter, several key developments will warrant close attention:

- **China's Response to the IPI:** The EU-China summit scheduled for July will be a critical event. The key question is whether Beijing will move beyond rhetoric and announce specific retaliatory measures against the EU, and if so, which sectors might be targeted.⁵
- **Expansion of Volume-Based Procurement:** Stakeholders will be watching for announcements of new national or major provincial VBP rounds. Any expansion into new device categories, particularly in the still-struggling equipment and IVD segments, would have significant market implications.⁵⁷
- **Implementation of New Regulations:** The industry will be preparing for the implementation of the new rules for online medical device sales, which are set to take effect on October 1, and monitoring for further guidance on device localization and innovation pathways.³⁵
- **Localization and Supply Chain Shifts:** The market will be watching to see how both MNCs and domestic firms adjust their manufacturing and supply chain footprints in response to the dual pressures of the EU's IPI and China's pro-localization policies.²³

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