

VERIFIED CHINA CARE

Stem Cell Therapy in China: Cost & Eligibility Guide — 2026

What's actually approved, what it actually costs, and how the licensed Boao Lecheng pathway works for international patients.

✓ Facts verified Aug 2026

✓ Licensed pilot-zone pathway

✓ Published pricing

Prepared by Team VCC · verifiedchinacare.com
care@verifiedchinacare.com · +1 302 217 0438

This guide summarizes public regulatory and pricing information. It is educational, not medical advice. Always consult a licensed physician about your specific case.

SECTION 1

What's actually real in 2026

A regulated access pathway now exists in China for advanced cell and gene therapies — inside a designated pilot zone, on a licensed clinical-translation track, with published prices.

21

approved projects
Mar 2025 – Mar 2026

5

approval batches

300+

patients treated
(as of Mar 2026)

¥16k–480k

published price range
per treatment

Where this happens

The **Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone** in Hainan, China — designated under Hainan's pilot regulations (Nov 2024, implementation measures Jan 2025) as the zone for translating new biomedical technologies into clinical care.

The national regulatory backdrop

- **Order No. 818** — China's State Council regulation on clinical study and translation/application of new biomedical technologies, issued Oct 2025, **in force since May 1, 2026**.
- It formalizes a **dual-track system**: product registration for drugs/devices on one track, and **clinical translation & application of new technologies** on the other.
- Boao Lecheng operates on the second track — **a separate, licensed pathway**, distinct from national NMPA marketing approval.

Important distinction

As of 2026, no stem-cell diabetes product holds national NMPA marketing approval. The Boao pathway is a **separate pilot-zone clinical-translation track** — licensed, regulated, and price-published, but not the same as national product approval.

SECTION 2

The 21 approved projects

Across five approval batches (March 2025 → March 2026), the pilot zone cleared 21 projects spanning cell therapies, gene therapy, and cell vaccines. Published per-treatment prices below.

Therapy	Published price	Batch
Umbilical cord MSC — knee osteoarthritis (intra-articular)	¥36,000 / cycle	1 · Mar 2025
Airway basal stem cells — COPD	¥150,000 / cycle	1 · Mar 2025
Umbilical cord MSC — heart failure (LVEF ≤40%)	¥60,000 / cycle	1 · Mar 2025
Personalized DC vaccine — malignant tumors	¥150,000 / dose	2 · Apr 2025
MSC — GVHD post-bone-marrow transplant	¥80,000 / cycle	2 · Apr 2025
Airway basal stem cells — interstitial lung disease	¥150,000 / course	2 · Apr 2025
Airway basal stem cells — bronchiectasis	¥150,000 / course	2 · Apr 2025
RPE65 gene therapy (AAV) — retinal dystrophy	¥480,000 / eye	2 · Apr 2025
Cell vaccine — EBV infection	¥16,000 / cycle	3 · Aug 2025
Menstrual blood MSC — pulmonary fibrosis	¥140,000 / course	3 · Aug 2025
Umbilical cord MSC — ovarian function (POI)	¥80,000 / cycle	3 · Aug 2025
Activated T cells — liver cancer recurrence	¥100,000 / cycle	4 · Nov 2025
Umbilical cord MSC — rheumatoid arthritis	¥50,000 / cycle	4 · Nov 2025
Umbilical cord MSC (VUM02) — liver cirrhosis	¥150,000 / cycle	4 · Nov 2025
Dental pulp MSC — periodontal disease	¥59,800 / tooth	4 · Nov 2025
Menstrual blood MSC — decompensated cirrhosis	¥150,000 / course	5 · Mar 2026
Autologous NK cells — solid tumors	¥49,800 / cycle	5 · Mar 2026
Umbilical cord MSC — type 2 diabetes	¥58,000 / injection (3-injection course)	5 · Mar 2026
Autologous DC — pancreatic / colorectal cancer	¥194,000 / dose	5 · Mar 2026
DC vaccine — EBV-related hematologic tumors	¥126,000 / cycle	5 · Mar 2026
Autologous NK cells — solid tumors (adjuvant)	¥70,000 / cycle	5 · Mar 2026

Source: published pilot-zone project list (updated Mar 30, 2026). The zone itself has noted the count may vary between 20 and 21 as projects move through the track. Prices are published facilitator list prices in RMB — not a quote for your case, and not hospital final billing.

What it costs — and what "all-in" means

The type-2 diabetes example

Umbilical cord MSC for type 2 diabetes: **¥58,000 per injection**, typically a **three-injection course** — approximately **US\$24,400** for the published course price.

Why published price ≠ your total cost

- The pilot-zone list price covers the **cell product and administration** at the published level.
- International patients also face: medical evaluation and eligibility screening, hospital admission, accommodation in Hainan, flights, translation/coordination, and follow-up.
- Currency conversion (RMB ↔ USD/EUR/GBP) moves the effective cost.

How Verified China Care programs are priced

VCC publishes **all-in program bands** that itemize what's included — hospital, physician, cell product, nursing, room, translation — so you compare total cost, not just the cell dose:

Program	All-in published band
Type 1 diabetes stem cell program	US\$23,000 – 39,000
Type 2 diabetes program	US\$18,000 – 30,000

Bands from verifiedchinacare.com program pages (Aug 2026). Every VCC quote is written, itemized, and fixed before you travel.

Why escrow matters in this category

Advanced-therapy programs are high-value and milestone-based. VCC structures payments through an **independent escrow agent, released in stages tied to documented treatment milestones** — you don't pay the full amount up front to anyone.

SECTION 4

Who can access the pathway — eligibility

Medical eligibility is set by the treating hospital

The pilot-zone approvals are clinical-translation track authorizations. Whether *you* qualify for a given therapy depends on a formal medical evaluation against the therapy's inclusion/exclusion criteria — this is where every serious case starts.

What you'll need to provide for screening

- Confirmed diagnosis and medical history
- Recent imaging and lab results
- Current medications and prior treatments
- Letters from your treating physician (where available)

VCC coordinates this evaluation with licensed pilot hospitals' international departments and English-speaking coordinators — no guesswork, no self-diagnosis.

Travel & visa eligibility

- **S1/S2 medical visa** route for treatment in China, requiring financial and medical documentation.
- **Hainan visa-free entry** framework covers citizens of **86 countries** — for many nationalities, no medical visa is needed to enter the island for the trip itself.
- Pilot hospitals run **international departments** with English-speaking coordinators.

What does NOT change

- Boao approvals are **pilot-zone track** — they are not national NMPA marketing approvals.
- Your home physician should review any proposed plan before you commit.
- Expect realistic outcomes: licensed programs publish their inclusion criteria precisely because outcomes depend on patient selection.

SECTION 5

How the licensed pathway works, step by step

The VCC coordination route

- **1. Free eligibility review** — submit your diagnosis; a licensed physician screens it against the therapy's criteria.
- **2. Written plan & fixed quote** — itemized all-in pricing, what's included and what's not, before you commit.
- **3. Hospital & credential verification** — JCI-accredited / CIHA-equivalent hospital, credentials verified in advance.
- **4. Escrow-protected payment** — funds released in stages tied to documented treatment milestones.
- **5. Logistics & travel** — visa route, flights, accommodation, translation, and on-site coordination.
- **6. Treatment & follow-up** — on-site support and post-treatment follow-up planning.

SECTION 6

Quick answers

- **Is stem-cell therapy approved in China in 2026?** Nationally, no stem-cell *diabetes* product holds NMPA marketing approval. At Boao Lecheng, 21 cell/gene therapy projects are approved on the pilot-zone clinical-translation track.
- **Is the Boao pathway the same as NMPA approval?** No — it's a separate, licensed pilot-zone track under Order No. 818's dual-track system.
- **Can I just book it myself?** You can contact pilot hospitals directly; a coordinator verifies credentials, fixes all-in pricing, and protects payment via escrow.
- **Do I need a medical visa?** Many nationalities enter Hainan visa-free (86 countries); the S1/S2 medical visa route exists for treatment stays.

NEXT STEP

Get your free eligibility review

This guide is a starting point. Your case is individual — a licensed physician needs to review your diagnosis, imaging, and history to tell you whether a licensed program fits, and what it would cost all-in.

Start with a free review — no obligation

 care@verifiedchinacare.com

 WhatsApp: +1 302 217 0438

 verifiedchinacare.com

Send your diagnosis and current treatment. A licensed physician responds within one business day. Your information is used only to respond to your request and is never sold.

Why Verified China Care

U.S.-based medical travel coordination with published all-in pricing, verified JCI-accredited / CIHA-equivalent partner hospitals, and escrow-protected payments released at documented milestones.
Byline: Team VCC.

© 2026 Verified China Care. 131 Continental Dr, Suite 305, Newark, DE 19713, USA. This guide summarizes public information (pilot-zone project lists, State Council Order No. 818, Hainan pilot regulations, and program pages at verifiedchinacare.com) and is provided for education. It is not medical advice; always consult a licensed physician about your specific condition.