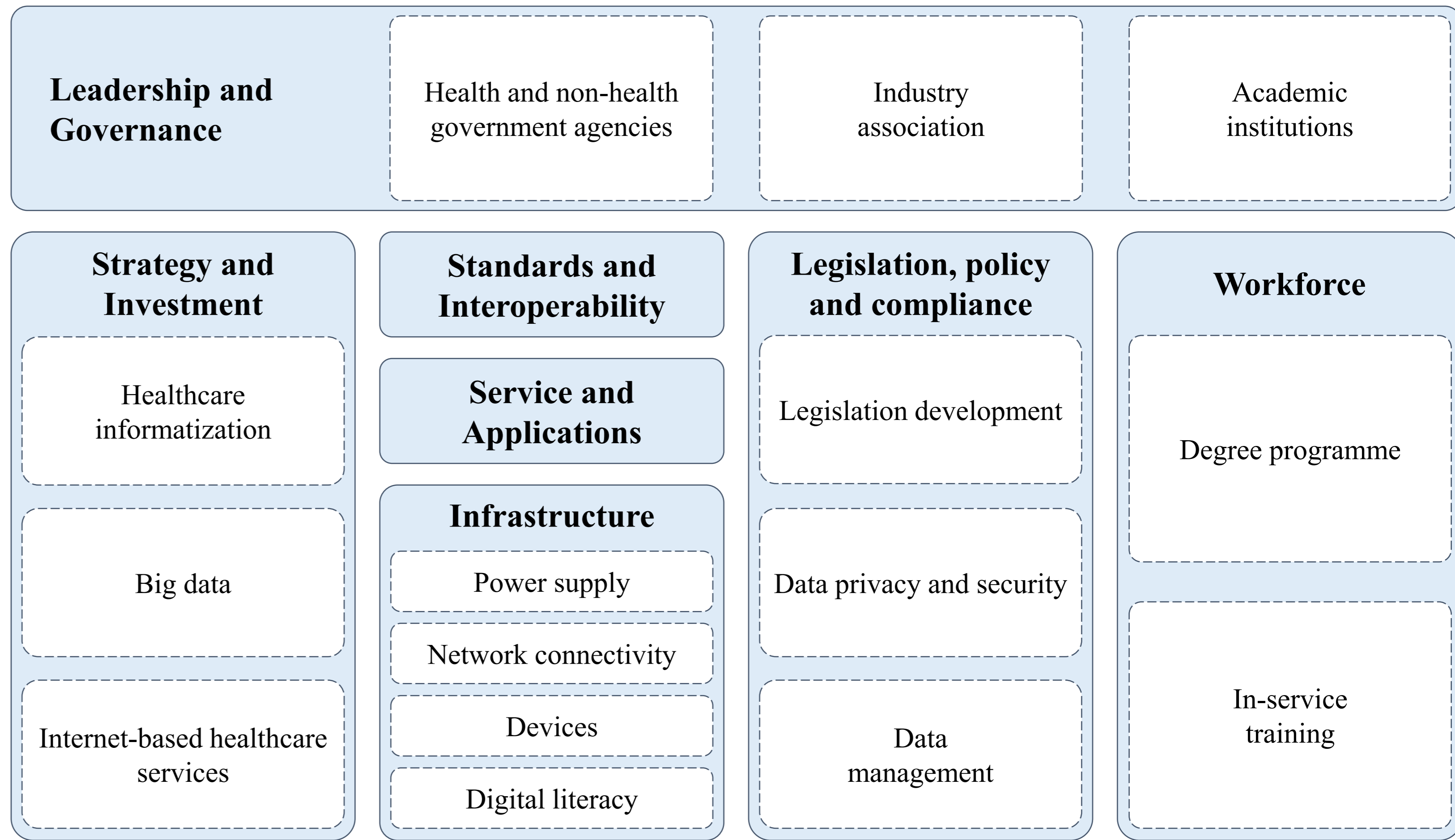


Digital health governance in China and cross-cutting collaboration of enabling ecosystem

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Background: The development and application of digital health technology offers a transformative opportunity to enhance healthcare interventions and strengthen health systems. The successful implementation depends on a robust governance framework, a clear digital strategy, and architectural alignment with a country's overarching healthcare vision. Without strong governance, digital health systems risk failing to adequately address healthcare needs and priorities and may lack transparency and accountability.



Methods: A scoping review was conducted focusing on digital health governance in China. A total of 78 national and regional legislation, policies, and practices from January 1st 2015 to August 1st 2024 were included, and the contents were synthesized based on World Health Organization framework.

Results:

- **Leadership and Governance:** A multi-tiered governing system was gradually established, involving health and non-health government agencies, industry association and academic institutions.
- **Strategy and Investment:** China's digital health governance system centers on three core functions for digital health transformation: healthcare informatization, big data, and internet-based healthcare services. This framework aims to strengthen the health system and support the Healthy China 2030 initiative.
- **Standards and Interoperability:** Over 220 health informatics standards have been issued, gradually achieving unified terminology and infrastructure for health information systems across the nation.
- **Infrastructure:** China has addressed through strong cross-sectoral collaboration and substantial infrastructure investments to support power supply, network connectivity, devices, and digital literacy.
- **Legislation, Policy, and Compliance:** China's regulatory framework for digital healthcare began to take shape in 2010, and peaked in 2017 and 2018, with the release of critical regulations.
- **Workforce:** The workforce strengthening is to be achieved through degree programmes and in-service training programmes in China.

