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Traditional Chinese medicine — Categories of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) clinical terminological systems

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Catégories de systèmes terminologiques de médecine traditionnelle chinoise (MTC) clinique

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

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Introduction

Clinical terms used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) healthcare are distinct from those used in health care systems based on biomedicine. The proliferation of computer applications and increase of electronic communication in TCM healthcare call urgently for specific standards. A terminological system is required to support a consistent way of indexing, storing, retrieving and aggregating clinical data of TCM. However, the process of standardization of clinical terminology of TCM is not compatible with the needs. The large number of clinical terms in the TCM system cannot be effectively managed without classification. The development of the category framework is a fundamental part of the terminological system.

The objective of this document is to express a core categorial structure of TCM clinical terms. The development of an International Standard will help existing users to develop a robust logical TCM clinical terminology system.

The potential uses for this categorial structure are as follows:

— support developers of TCM clinical terminology systems (TCMCTS);

— support developers of new terminology systems concerning TCM;

— facilitate the representation of TCM clinical information using a standardized core model in a manner suitable for computer processing;

— facilitate the mapping between TCM terminologies and biomedicine terminological systems.

The target groups for this document are the following:

— developers of TCM clinical terminology systems;

— developers of information systems that require a structured framework of concepts to facilitate implementation;

— specialists who require common models of knowledge to facilitate the analysis of current and legacy data from one or more information systems;

— clinicians and coders, to provide greater consistency in structure and organization when entering and retrieving data using one or more terminology systems.

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Categories of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) clinical terminological systems

1 Scope

This document specifies a categorial structure within the subject field of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) clinical practice. It describes the upper-level categories of TCM clinical terms and the nomenclature of the hierarchical categories. It is applicable only to clinical terminological systems in TCM disciplines, not to a comprehensive categorial structure of TCM, the conceptual definition of the hierarchy categories, and terms for individual TCM concepts.

The following are considered outside the scope of this document:

— comprehensive categories of TCM;

— the conceptual definition of the hierarchy categories.

— terms for individual TCM concepts;

— the terms or categories of Kampo, Korean medicine and other traditional medicines.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
concept
unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics

Note 1 to entry: Concepts are not necessarily bound to particular languages. They are, however, influenced by the social or cultural background often leading to different categorizations.

[SOURCE: ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.2.1, modified]

3.2
concept system
set of *concepts* (3.1) structured according to the relations among them

[SOURCE: ISO 1087-1:2000, 3.2.11]

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3.3
terminology
structured human and machine-readable representation of clinical *concepts* (3.1) required directly or indirectly to describe health conditions and healthcare activities, and allow their subsequent retrieval or analysis

[SOURCE: ISO 18104:2014, 3.1.9, modified]

3.4
terminological system
set of *concepts* (3.1) structured according to the relations among them, each concept being represented by a sign which denotes it

[SOURCE: ISO 18308:2011, 3.50, modified]

3.5
class hierarchy
ordering of classes, in which a subclass is a specialization of its superclass

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2010, 3.412]

3.6
superclass
class that is one step above another class in a class inclusion hierarchy

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 77-2:2008, 2.22, modified]

3.7
subclass
class that is one step below another class in a class inclusion hierarchy

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 77-2:2008, 2.21, modified]

4 Classification principles of TCMCTS

The following principles should be considered:

4.1 Practicability

The concept and classification of the terms shall be based on the aim of serving the clinical application of TCM. The practicability and convenience during practice shall be taken into consideration. The hierarchical framework of concepts of TCM will be developed. The structure shall be established for the purpose of supporting electric medical records and medical insurance.

4.2 Internality and systematic feature

Originating from the need of the clinical practice of Chinese medicine, all the commonly encountered clinical terms of Chinese medicine shall be covered in the system. Clinical terms shall be sequenced systematically, scientifically and appropriately according to the property and characteristics in clinical practice. One concept shall only exist in one specific hierarchical structure.

4.3 Extendibility

In order to provide conditions for the further expansion of the system, the extendibility shall be considered in advance in the planning stage of the classification system to guarantee the integrality of the existing system when new items are added.

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