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**Health Informatics — Categorical  
structures for representation of  
acupuncture —**

**Part 5:  
Cupping**



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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215 *Health informatics*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 16843 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Acupuncture therapy is widely practiced in Asia, and as a part of complementary and alternative medicine treatments in western countries. Cupping is a therapeutic procedure using a vacuumized cup or jar to apply negative pressure to certain points or areas of the body surface for treating diseases through regulation of the functions of meridians/channels and visceral organs.

A guideline for reporting acupuncture intervention in clinical trials has already been provided and a large number of clinical trials have been conducted to assess the efficacy and efficiency of acupuncture therapy. However, the descriptions of cupping, as an acupuncture intervention in clinical reports tend to be insufficient for the interpretation of heterogeneity among trials, often causing difficulties in synthesizing data in meta-analysis. This arises from three reasons: firstly, an appropriate information structure of cupping has not yet been formulated; secondly, the peculiar concepts within traditional medicine in the western pacific-rim region originated in China and are not considered sufficient; thirdly, semantic associations between concepts of cupping need to be explicit.

This document defines the categorial structures in the field of cupping in order to address these existing problems.

The potential benefits of this document include

- supporting developers to provide new terminological resources concerning cupping,
- supporting developers to provide new detailed content areas of existing terminological resources concerning the cupping process to ensure its conformance,
- facilitating the representation of the cupping process using a standardized core model in a manner suitable for computer processing,
- providing a conceptual framework for the generation of a compositional concept representation of cupping,
- facilitating the mapping and improved semantic correspondence between different terminological resources by proposing a core specification for cupping and the means for determining conformance to the specification;
- providing a core model to describe the structure of cupping, and facilitate improved semantic correspondence with information models,
- providing a tool for cupping text mining, database construction, ancient document processing over a wide area of acupuncture information collection and processing, and
- providing a new method for researchers to conduct relevant research, and ideas for the development of acupuncture and moxibustion disciplines.

The target groups for this document are

- stakeholders such as companies which offer Electronic Categorical Structures, by helping build Knowledge databases or automatic processing of the medical literature,
- clinicians who can be given assistance on the semantics of needling and cupping procedures, or support in clinical decision making, and
- researchers assisted in performing text mining.



# Health Informatics — Categorical structures for representation of acupuncture —

## Part 5: Cupping

### 1 Scope

This document aims to specify categorical structure in the field of cupping by defining a set of domain constraints for use within terminological resources.

This document describes a concept system detailing the domain constraints of sanctioned characteristics, each composed of a semantic link and applicable characterizing categories.

### 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:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1 General

##### 3.1.1

##### **cupping**

action by creating localized negative pressure where the cups are placed on the skin by means of either heat or suction pump, for affecting the body surface or increasing bloodletting by the negative pressure within the cups

##### 3.1.2

##### **cupping apparatus**

apparatus for cupping therapy, which can maintain negative pressures generated by *pressure control device* (3.2.6)

EXAMPLE Suction cup, bamboo cup, glass cup.

##### 3.1.3

##### **method for generating decompressed pressure**

cupping procedure generating negative pressure to attach the *cupping apparatus* (3.1.2)

EXAMPLE Fire-insertion cupping method, flash-fire cupping method, cotton-burning cupping method.