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Traditional Chinese medicine — Categorial structure for disorders

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Structure catégorielle des troubles

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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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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

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.

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Introduction

The standardization of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been carried out for herbs, acupuncture and moxibustion, among other things. However, disease terminology in TCM has not yet been standardized, nor has how to standardize the classification of diseases been discussed.

The terminology of diseases is essential knowledge in medicine for understanding and describing a disease. In TCM, terms for diseases are based on Han Chinese characters. It is necessary to develop standards and structural categories of terms because there are several ways to express a disease when translating terms from Han Chinese characters to English.

This document offers various benefits to the TCM industry. Above all, it provides guidance for the standardization of disorder terms. It also suggests a way to refine these terms through semantic links between categories, which can eventually be used as a primary database for clinical decision support systems.

The potential uses for this document include:

— support for developers in providing new terminological systems concerning disorder representation in TCM;

— facilitating the representation of TCM disorders using a standardized core model in a manner suitable for computer processing;

— facilitating the mapping and improving semantic correspondence between different terminologies by proposing a core specification for TCM disorder;

— providing a tool for disorder text mining, database construction and ancient document processing over a wide area of TCM.

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1 Scope

This document aims to specify a categorial structure in the field of disorder representation in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) by defining a set of domain constraints for use within terminological resources. It contains a concept detailing the domains of four subcategories: body parts, causative agents, pathological process and manifestation.

This document does not include:

— a comprehensive categorial structure for TCM;

— a treatment procedure for TCM;

— relevant devices;

— terms or descriptions for subcategories of body parts, causative agents, pathological process or manifestation.

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 terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

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

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

3.1
disorder
illness that disrupts normal physical or mental functions

3.2
classification
exhaustive set of mutually exclusive categories to aggregate data at a pre-prescribed level of specialization for a specific purpose

3.3
category
type of entity shared by all the individual instances in existence in the past, present and future

Note 1 to entry: Body part (4.1), causative agent (4.2), pathological process (4.3), manifestation (4.4).

3.4
categorial structure
minimal set of *categories* (3.3) and the valid relationships between them for representing *disorders* (3.1) in terminological systems for a specified subject field

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 1.

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