# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

## ISO/TS 22789

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# Health informatics — Conceptual framework for patient findings and problems in terminologies

*Informatique de santé — Cadre conceptuel pour les constats des patients et les problèmes de terminologies*

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# Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, a technical committee may decide to publish other types of document:

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An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

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.

ISO/TS 22789 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

## Introduction

Enormous investment has occurred over the last two decades in creating health care terminological systems. Further expansion or additions are likely. Many developments overtly or covertly share features of a common model of clinical findings.

The objective of this Technical Specification is to express a core **categorial structure** of clinical findings based upon existing schemes including the World Health Organization *ICD-10*, NHS *Clinical Terms Version 3*, International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation's *SNOMED Clinical Terms* and the WONCA 2001 *International Classification of Primary Care*. The development of a Technical Specification will help existing users to develop a **mapping** or cross-walks between one scheme and another and provide a robust logical framework for construction of new areas or consistency for updated versions of existing terminological systems. The model describes the underlying principles of clinical findings and important **semantic link**s referencing a set or sets of **characterizing concept**s such as anatomy and causative organisms. It utilizes ISO 17115, which has been designed to describe such patterns for **concept** representation in a particular domain.

Within this Technical Specification, the following notation is used:

A **bold** notation has been used where references are made to terms defined in Clause 2.

An item enclosed by single angle brackets < > refers to a category that can be specialized to various **concept**s, as required.

An item enclosed within the text by single accolades { } identifies a **semantic link**.

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