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Part 5: Cupping

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Contents

Page

Foreword

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

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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 Categorial 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.