
**Health informatics — Information
model of combination of decoction
pieces in Chinese medicines**

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Foreword

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

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Introduction

Principles, methods, formulas and medicinals are four important parts of traditional Chinese medicine therapy, in which the importance of formulas cannot be underestimated.

As the fundamental rule to construct multi-herb prescriptions of Chinese Materia Medica (CMM), combination is the key to study the principles of CMM prescriptions. The key point in enhancing clinical efficacy is how to better achieve the combination of formulas.

However, the information on formulas in clinical reports tends to be insufficient for interpretation of heterogeneity, often causing difficulties for data synthesis in meta-analyses. This is due to three reasons: firstly, because an appropriate information model of formulas of Chinese medicines is not used, secondly, because some of the concepts in the traditional medicine practice in the western pacific-rim region originated from China and are not mentioned, and thirdly because semantic associations between concepts of formula combination of Chinese medicines need to be explicitly identified.

This document defines the information model within combination in order to address these problems. *Chinese medicines* means substance or combination of substances used under the guidance of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) theory for medical care and the prevention and treatment of disease, which is different from TCM. TCM is the parent concept which includes Chinese medical treatment and Chinese medicines.

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