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**Traditional Chinese medicine —  
Categories of clinical terminological  
system to support the integration of  
clinical terms from traditional Chinese  
medicine and Western medicine**

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Published in Switzerland

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## Foreword

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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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

The clinical terms used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) are distinct from those used in healthcare systems based on Western medicine. Although the SNOMED CT<sup>[29]</sup> has become more mature and the TCM clinical term framework has already been published, the clinical terms of TCM and Western medicine are used in combination in real medical records, and therefore cannot and should not be completely separated. Specific standards are urgently needed to support the increase of computer applications and electronic communication in healthcare. An encompassing terminological system is required to support a consistent way of indexing, reserving, retrieving and aggregating TCM and Western medicine clinical data. The standardization of TCM clinical terminology (ISO 19465) cannot fully meet the needs of electronic medical record processing for hospitals. The large number of clinical terms cannot be effectively managed without classification. Development of a categorial framework is a fundamental requirement for the development of the terminological system.

The objective of this document is to express a core categorial structure of clinical terms of TCM and Western medicine, based upon existing structures. The development of this document will help existing users to develop a robust logical clinical terminology system.

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