
**Health informatics — Categorical
structure for representation of 3D
human body position system —**

**Part 1:
Bones**

*Informatique de santé — Structure catégorielle pour la
représentation du système de positionnement du corps humain en
3D —
Partie 1: Os*

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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

Anatomical descriptions can be very abstract, requiring long narrative descriptions. These descriptions can lead to ambiguity and coding inconsistency. Text-based expressions lack expressiveness and accuracy, medical information is not captured and re-used sufficiently and there are also issues in interoperability. There is currently no unified way of expressing anatomical concepts.

However, recent advancements in imaging technology are dramatically revolutionizing the field. For instance, the spatial resolution in a CT scan is less than 1 mm. Regarding accuracy and expressiveness, it is believed that the gap between medical imaging and clinical terminology is increasing over time. Patients are also having problems understanding their disease because visualization is not given by standard terminology.

Healthcare workers are seeking to achieve additional expressiveness by adopting 3D data in the medical field. Radiation therapies are designed by 3D systems to generate optimal intensities while protecting adjacent tissue. In operating theatres, operations are often guided by 3D navigation systems. For example, arthroplasties are designed and simulated before surgery using 3D technology. Researchers are also studying ways to simulate operation tactics using 3D data by 3D printing, such as AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality). Since 3D systems can deliver accurate spatial information in the human body, it is evident that a standard terminology infrastructure will provide additional expressiveness, accuracy and comparability when 3D data is adopted in medical informatics. Since anatomy is a key piece of information in many clinical descriptions, 3D data can increase the accuracy and expressiveness of clinical terminology. 3D data are numbers that can be processed by mathematical functions providing more computability in research, software production and artificial intelligence.

3D systems provide a consistent way of expressing anatomical concepts in a precise manner. Accurate data can improve data exchange between electronic health records, epidemiological analysis and quality. Increased accuracy also means better clinical decision support systems for patient safety, reducing medical errors and improving efficiency. It also provides visual information for patients and caregivers when conventional standard terminology system does not. HBPS (Human body position system) is intended to be used in electronic health records, personal health record and various medical research purposes.

HBPS is a way of expressing clinical concepts by combining 3D data and text-based terminology. Although the main purpose of 3D is graphical expression, it can play a terminological role in many ways as it has accurate anatomical concept. It can have attributes that are similar to codes in semantic terminological system. It can be pre- or post-coordinated, just as conventional terminological concepts. Since the data inside a 3D system is purely numeric, it can be captured and retrieved better than semantic medical information.

