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**Traditional Chinese medicine —  
Vocabulary for diagnostics —**

**Part 1:  
Tongue**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Vocabulaire pour les  
diagnostics —*

*Partie 1: Langue*

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CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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## Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 23961 series can be found on the ISO website.

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).

## Introduction

Traditional Chinese medicine has become increasingly popular all over the world. Traditional Chinese medicine education has developed rapidly. Traditional Chinese medicine has obtained legal status in the United States, Singapore, Australia, Thailand and other countries and regions. Academic activities of traditional Chinese medicine are increasingly active. International communication of traditional Chinese medicine and medical activities, scientific research, management rules and regulations are in urgent need of International Standards.

First, standardized terminology is essential to standardized products and services. Traditional Chinese medicine diagnostic devices are one of the important contents of traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis. This document aims to encourage improvement of tongue-equipment-related industrial and research fields. All traditional Chinese medicine tongue diagnostic instrument can use the same vocabulary, which is very important for international trade and communication. With standardized terminology, the versatility of tongue-equipment-related products or service can be improved to benefit international technical cooperation.

Secondly, the use of standardized terminology in diagnosis helps to avoid confusion among researchers in the field of tongue diagnosis. But more importantly, the use of standardized terminology in tongue diagnosis also helps manufacturers to deliver standardized meaning with measured tongue images for products. Considering the close association between the traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and diagnostic medical devices, it is not only necessary but also urgent to standardize the diagnostic terminologies.

Third, the purpose of the project is for the use of traditional Chinese medicine diagnostic instruments and artificial intelligence (AI) medicine. As internet-based medicine is developing very quickly, a standardized terminology is not only important for computerized information but also necessary for successful communication between physicians and patients from different countries. With advances in AI, medical AI doctors also need standardized terminology.

Therefore, it is necessary to standardize tongue diagnostic terminology, which will bring benefits to scholars, governments and enterprises all over the world.

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