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BSI Standards Publication

Health informatics — Categorial structures for representation of acupuncture

Part 2: Needling

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National foreword

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Part 2: **Needling**

Informatique de santé — Structures catégoriques pour la représentation de l'acupuncture —

Partie 2: Puncture

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

Introduction

In this Technical Specification, acupuncture is a branch of traditional Chinese medicine which mainly involves the theory of meridians, location, usage, indications and combinations of acupoints, needling manipulations and application of ignited moxa in the treatment of disease through regulation of qi, blood and visceral functions.

Acupuncture therapy is widely practiced as a part of complementary and alternative medicine throughout East Asia and also in western countries.

A guideline for reporting acupuncture interventions in clinical trials is already available, and a large number of clinical trials have been conducted to assess efficacy and efficiency of acupuncture therapy. However, the descriptions of acupuncture interventions in clinical reports tend to be insufficient for interpretation of heterogeneity among trials, often causing difficulties for data synthesis in meta-analyses. This arises for three reasons: firstly because an appropriate information structure of acupuncture needling is not used, secondly because certain concepts within traditional medicine practice in the western pacific-rim region originated in China and are frequently not sufficiently considered, and thirdly because semantic associations between concepts of acupuncture needling need to be explicitly identified.

This Technical Specification defines the categorial structures within the subject field of acupuncture needling in order to address these problems.

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1 Scope

The purpose of this Technical Specification is to specify categorial structures within the subject field of acupuncture by defining a set of domain constraints for use within terminological resources.

This Technical Specification describes a concept system detailing domain constraints of sanctioned characteristics, each composed of a semantic link and an applicable characterizing category.

The potential benefits of this Technical Specification include:

a) support for developers of new terminology systems concerning acupuncture needling;

b) support for developers of new detailed content areas of existing terminology systems concerning acupuncture needling procedures to ensure accuracy, repeatability and comparability;

c) facilitating the representation of acupuncture needling procedures using a standard core model in a manner suitable for computer processing;

d) providing a conceptual framework for the generation of compositional concept representation of acupuncture needling;

e) facilitating the mapping and improved semantic correspondence between different terminologies by proposing a core specification for acupuncture needling;

f) providing a core model to describe the structure of acupuncture, and facilitate improved semantic correspondence with information models;

g) providing a tool for acupuncture text mining, database construction, ancient documents processing and wide area of acupuncture information collection and processing;

h) providing a new method for researchers to conduct relevant research, and ideas for the development of acupuncture disciplines.

Target groups include:

— stakeholders such as companies that offer systems that incorporate Electronic Categorial Structures, by helping building knowledge databases or automatic processing of medical literature, and

— doctors, who can be better assisted with knowledge and documentation of needling procedures.

This Technical Specification can also be used in clinical decision support and to help in data mining for researchers.