



BSI Standards Publication

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

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## National foreword

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



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

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

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

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.





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

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the information model within the subject field of combination of Chinese medicines. A set of domain constraints of sanctioned characteristics have been defined in the model. Domain constraints are achieved through a set of relationships.

This document does not apply to Kampo medicine.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 17115, *Health informatics — Vocabulary of compositional terminological systems*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### Chinese medicines

substance or *combination* (3.2) of substances used under the guidance of traditional Chinese medicine theory for medical care and the prevention and treatment of disease

### 3.2

#### combination

use of various medicinals jointly in a formula or prescription for producing the desired therapeutic effect and reducing toxic or side effects

Note 1 to entry: This definition is taken from Reference [12].

### 3.3

#### mutual reinforcement

two medicinals with similar properties used in *combination* (3.2) to reinforce each other's action

EXAMPLE Lonicera (LONICERAE JAPONICAE FLOS, Jin yin hua) and forsythia fruit (FORSYTHIAE FRUCTUS, Lian qiao) used together in a formula can release the exterior more effectively after decocting.

Note 1 to entry: This definition is taken from Reference [12].

### 3.4

#### mutual restraint

*toxicity* (3.6) or side effects of a medicinal being counteracted by another medicinal

EXAMPLE Pinellia tuber (PINELLIAE RHIZOMA, Ban xia) restraint fresh ginger rhizome (ZINGIBERIS RHIZOMA RECENS, Sheng jiang).