PD ISO/TS 21831:2020

BSI Standards Publication

Information model of Chinese materia medica processing

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National foreword

This Published document is the UK implementation of ISO/TS 21831:2020.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/35, Health informatics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2020

ISBN 978 0 580 99739 6

ICS 11.020.99

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This Published document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 January 2020.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

ISO/TS 21831

First edition
2020-01

Information model of Chinese materia medica processing

Reference number
ISO/TS 21831:2020(E)

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Foreword

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Introduction

Chinese materia medica is widely utilized as a part of complementary and alternative medicine throughout East Asia and western countries. In order to ensure the quality and therapeutic effect of Chinese medicines, it is important to use a proper manufacturing process of Chinese materia medica.

There are guidelines for processing Chinese materia medica in the Traditional Chinese Medicine industry, and clinical trials are already available. A large number of relevant trials have been conducted to assess the function of decoction pieces of Chinese materia medica. However, the descriptions of processing in reports tend to be insufficient for the interpretation of heterogeneity among trials, often causing difficulties for data synthesis in meta-analyses. This arises from two reasons: firstly, because of the lack of use of an appropriate information model of the processing of Chinese materia medica, and secondly because semantic associations between concepts of Chinese materia medica processing have yet to be explicitly identified.

In order to address these problems, this document defines the information model within the field of Chinese materia medica processing.

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