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ICS 01.040.35  
35.240.80

**HEALTH INFORMATICS - VOCABULARY -  
MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE FOR A  
WEB-BASED TERMS AND CONCEPTS  
DATABASE**

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English Version

**Health informatics - Vocabulary - Maintenance procedure for a  
web-based terms and concepts database**

Informatique de santé - Vocabulaire Informatique Médical -  
Procédure de maintenance

Medizinische Informatik - Vokabular - Verfahren zur Pflege  
von webbasierten Datenbanken für Benennungen und  
Begriffe

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 8 August 2005. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 251.

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## **Foreword**

This Technical Report (CEN/TR 15212:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 "Health Informatics", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This document supersedes ENV 12017:1997.

## **CEN/TR 15212:2006 (E)**

### **Introduction**

The need for a coherent and precise terminology in health informatics is obvious. The overall problem of supplying concept systems and reference terminologies with international scope for all of healthcare information is gigantic but is approached by different organisations and strategies where formal standardization aims for a facilitating role.

This document addresses the much more limited problem of the terminology of informatics and in particular the terminology used in health informatics standards. Vocabulary harmonisation across standards in the field is an important quality requirement and with the growing complexity of health informatics, easy to use tools are needed to manage this. We have to accept that in some aspects terminology and definitions of the associated concepts are developing over time. It is therefore important for the vocabulary to be continuously updated with new terms and unambiguous definitions with references to the normative documents where they are approved.

In ENV 12017 a procedure was described in which a published standard would regularly be issued with the most recent terminology. Given the fast development and requirement for easy access, CEN/TC 251 decided in March 2000 to instead target a freely available database with web access, which would present the terms and definitions of the CEN/TC 251 standards. The intended capacity to present concept models graphically when available, together with the traditional verbal definitions, makes it extra valuable.

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