

# **International Classifications: The view from the WHO North American Collaborating Center**

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Vital and Health Statistics  
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# Presentation Agenda

- What is the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC)
- How are the classifications maintained and updated
- What are the priorities of the WHO-FIC Network
- How does this all relate to terminological and other standards development (Steve Steindel)

# WHO Family of International Classifications

- *A suite of classifications for international use as meaningful information tools to capture the core health dimensions, such as deaths, disease, disability and health as well as related health system parameters such as health interventions*

# WHO Family of Classifications

## **RELATED Classifications**

*International Classification  
of Primary Care (ICPC)*

*International Classification  
of External Causes of  
Injury (ICECI)*

*The Anatomical,  
Therapeutic, Chemical (ATC)  
classification system with  
Defined Daily Doses (DDD)*

*ISO 9999 Technical aids  
for persons with disabilities  
– Classification and  
Terminology*

## **REFERENCE Classifications**

**I**nternational  
**C**lassification of  
**D**iseases

**I**nternational  
**C**lassification of  
**F**unctioning,  
**D**isability & Health

**I**nternational  
**C**lassification of  
**H**ealth  
**I**nterventions  
*(under development)*

## **DERIVED Classifications**

International Classification of  
Diseases for **Oncology**, Third  
Edition (ICD-O-3)

The ICD-10 Classification of  
**Mental and Behavioural  
Disorders**

Application of the International  
Classification of Diseases to  
**Dentistry** and Stomatology,  
Third Edition  
(ICD-DA)

Application of the International  
Classification of Diseases to  
**Neurology**  
(ICD-10-NA)

ICF, **Children & Youth Version**  
(ICF -CY)

# WHO Family of International Classifications

- New members can apply for related or derived status by completing a protocol developed by the WHO-FIC Network
- ICD and ICF are maintained and promoted by an international network of WHO Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications



# WHO Collaborating Centres for International Classifications

- Centres are established by language and geography:
  - 10 fully designated centres (Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Nordic, North America, Russian Federation, Venezuela)
  - 4-10 centres in various stages of designation (e.g., India, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand)
  - North American Center established in 1976

# North American Collaborating Center (NACC)

- Housed at National Center for Health Statistics/CDC
- Covers U.S. and Canada
- Partners with Statistics Canada and Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Designated by Pan American Health Organization

# Mission of WHO FIC Collaborating Centres

- To develop, disseminate, implement and update WHO Family of International Classifications to support national and international health information systems, statistics and evidence
- To improve the international comparability of health data
- To assist in addressing the “Information Paradox”





# WHO Collaborating Centres for International Classifications

- Priorities of WHO-FIC Network:
  - Implementation of ICD-10
    - Mortality and Morbidity data
  - Updating and revision of ICD-10
  - Implementation of ICF
    - Censuses and surveys
    - Health outcomes at clinical and service level
    - Administrative and clinical information (records)
    - Social policy field

# WHO-FIC Committees: Education (EC)

- Piloting an International Training and Certification Program for ICD-10 mortality and morbidity coders
  - Joint Collaboration with International Federation of Health Records Organizations
  - Includes core curricula and processes for recognizing coders, trainers and training materials
- Developed core curriculum and best practices for certifiers of cause of death
- Working on web-based training tool
- Developing ICF educational materials

# WHO-FIC Committees: Electronic Tools and Family Development

- Electronic Tools (ETC)
  - Developed preliminary version of a Maintenance and Publication Tool for WHO Classifications
  - Facilitating migration to ClaML
- Family Development (FDC)
  - Protocol for new members
  - Approved ICF-CY (Children and Youth) version
  - Liaising with Traditional Medicine experts
  - Work group on ICHI (health interventions)

# WHO-FIC Committees: Implementation and Update and Revision

- Implementation (IC)
  - Taking stock of level of implementation
  - Developing tool kits
  - Establishing regional networks
- Update and Revision (URC)
  - Organizes update process for ICD-10
  - Will implement update process for ICF
  - Approximately 60 proposals (19 major) approved for updating ICD-10 at 2006 Network meeting

# Process for Updating ICD-10

- URC receives recommendations from reference groups and collaborating centres
- Must balance providing a clinically current and credible classification with one that has stability over time for comparative purposes
- Update cycle is every three years for major changes, annually for minor changes
- Distinguishes updates from revision

# WHO-FIC Reference Groups

- Reference groups augment the committee structure by providing forums for more technical discussions, make recommendations to URC
- Mortality Reference Group (MRG)
  - Established in 1998
  - Interprets ICD-10 mortality coding rules
  - Recommends changes and updates to codes and rules
  - Supports international automated coding software

# New WHO-FIC Reference Groups Established in 2006

- Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG)
  - Interprets and makes recommendations for revision to ICD-10 morbidity coding rules
  - Makes recommendations for updates to ICD-10
  - Harmonize clinical modifications as feasible
- Terminology Reference Group (TRG)
  - Promotes awareness of need for congruence between terminologies and classifications

# New WHO-FIC Reference Groups Established in 2006

- Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)
  - Review and revise ICF coding guidelines
  - Develop process for updating ICF
  - Make recommendations to URC for ICF updates
  - Address appropriate and optimal uses of ICF in statistics and information systems



# How to Challenge the Information Paradox

- Establish collaborating centres in Southeast Asia, Africa and Eastern Mediterranean
- Make the case internationally for the importance of health information
- Partner with Health Metrics Network
- Support vital registration systems
- Develop training tools and tool kits
- Develop national committees

# Revision of ICD-10

- Plans announced to establish a Revision Steering Committee for development of ICD-11; first meeting will be April 2007
- Initial comparison made of four national clinical modifications of ICD-10 (ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-CA, ICD-10-AM, ICD-10-GM); will serve as input to revision process
- Alphanumeric structure of ICD-10 will be maintained
- No firm time line has been established

# Revision of ICD-10

- Preliminary revision work is addressing:
  - Mental health
  - Oncology and alignment with ICD-O
  - External causes and injuries
  - Rare diseases
- Separate views may be created for mortality and morbidity
- Alignment with terminological standards is a goal
- ICD-10-CM is pathway to ICD-11