

The Mortality Reference Group

The MRG was established at the 1997 meeting of the Centre Heads as part of an updating mechanism for the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

The objective of the Mortality Reference Group (MRG) is to improve international comparability of mortality data by establishing standardized application and interpretation of the ICD-10.

The Mortality Reference Group (MRG) makes recommendations on proposed ICD updates to the Updating and Revision Committee (URC).

Functions and functioning:

1. Establish ground rules for MRG functioning.
2. To identify and solve problems related to the interpretation and application of ICD-10 to coding and classification of mortality, emanating from the Mortality Forum and from other sources.
3. To establish standardized application of mortality coding rules and guidelines by
 - a. making decisions regarding the interpretation of rules and guidelines for mortality, and
 - b. deliberating on updates to the classification and the rules and guidelines. Such updates include both clarifications and correction of errors.
4. To develop recommendations for ICD-10 updates through a democratic process which attempts to achieve consensus.
5. To submit annual recommendations to the Update Reference Committee (URC) by the end of April.
6. To provide documentation of discussions and decisions in a database.

Much of the work of the MRG is conducted communicating by email, using teleconferences when needed. Two annual face-to-face meetings are held, one at the annual meeting of the Collaborating Centres of the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC).

Policies

Updates suggested should only relate to the ICD-10 and not to national versions (although they may come from national versions).

The chairperson is elected by the MRG. The election is submitted to the Secretariat for confirmation.

Decisions from the MRG are available from the WHO ICD-10 home page using the most suitable accessible technology. The decision may be available from

several sites (mirror or replicate sites) but, if so, they should all be updated concurrently.

The MRG endeavours to ensure that its membership reflects the widest possible representation from centres and WHO regional offices.

The Mortality Forum

A separate discussion group is available to address issues and questions related specifically to mortality coding, classification, definitions, guidelines and decision tables. Questions regarding these topics should be sent to the Mortality Forum. Important mortality issues subsequently will reach the URC by way of the Mortality Reference Group.

To send a query to the Mortality Forum, address e-mail to:

mortforum@nordclass.uu.se

Past discussions in the Mortality Forum are posted to the Nordic Collaborating Centre's web site for the Mortality Forum www.nordclass.uu.se .