

MR/HIM AND ICD CODING EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

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Abstract Health information system development in Sri Lanka has generally been a low priority. Weaknesses exist in many areas including vital registration, hospital information including inpatient & out patient morbidity & mortality data. Lapses in hospital information system are mainly due to incomplete patient's Medical Records, non-availability, inaccuracy & illegibility of the final diagnoses on the front sheets, shortage of trained statistical staff, lack of supervision at all levels, lack of facilities at Medical Record Departments etc. WHO-SEARO in collaboration with National Centre in Classification in Health has developed a group of trainers who conduct MR / HIM and ICD – 10 training courses within the country.

Introduction

Sri Lanka is situated in the Indian ocean with a land area of 65,610 sq km and a population of nearly 20 million people. It is divided into nine regions and 24 administrative districts.

The essential Health care is provided by 1029 Health Centers that include large Teaching, Provincial & General Hospitals with all modern facilities & specialized care units.



The Medical Record System forms an integral component of the activities of any hospital.

A Medical Record System includes, Medical Records, Registers, Indexes, Returns, accepted rules – regulations, and competent personnel to handle them. Medical Records provide vital information that is necessary for planning at all levels of a health system.

This paper will discuss how MR/HIM & ICD-10 training programmes were planned out & conducted in the country with the guidance & assistance from National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH) – Brisbane & WHO's South- East Asian Regional Organization (SEARO).

Methods & Materials

Development of a short course for Medical Record Officers (MRO) was initiated in mid- 1997 by the Health Situation & Trend Assessment (HST) Unit of WHO-SEARO.

NCCH – Brisbane, Australia was offered the project of training of trainers.

1998 July, training of trainers in MR/HIM - NCCH – Brisbane.

Action plan to modify the curriculum & to plan a training program to train MRO.

Training needs assessment

12-week long training program was planned out

First training course - Conducted for the local trainees in early 1999.

late 1999, a 6 week long MR /HIM & ICD – 10 training course was conducted by the trainers at National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) for 30 participants from 9 different countries of the region.

Programme evaluation by WHO short-term consultants

Training course was institutionalized at NIHS, Kalutara, Sri Lanka.



Participants & Lecturers/ Resource Personnel of a Inter-Country Training Programme in ICD-10 at NIHS, Sri Lanka

Results

◆ Since 1999, NIHS is conducting HIM & ICD – 10 training programmes for the local participants as well as for the participants from regional countries.

◆ More than 600 MRO (both local & international) have been trained in MR/HIM and ICD-10 for the past 10 years.

◆ Adequate number (10 trainers) of MR/HIM and ICD-10 master trainers have been trained & they contribute immensely during these training programmes.

◆ Trainers in ICD at NIHS are invited to conduct ICD-10 training programmes in countries of the South-East Asian Region, the most recent being Maldives.

◆ Mortality coders at the Vital Statistics unit of the Registrar General's Department of Sri Lanka who had no formal training in mortality coding were fully trained.

◆ With the technical support from NIHS, WHO (SEARO) has developed a generic curriculum on ICD – 10 for the medical schools, nursing schools & also as a refresher-training course for the medical officers.

◆ These components are being incorporated in to medical curricula of some of the medical schools of the country.

Conclusions

❖ The impact of the training of medical record personnel on the quality of information generated by the hospital medical record departments is yet to be formally evaluated.

❖ Experienced Lecturers / Resource personnel in MR/HIM & ICD at NIHS are willing to share their expertise & also to conduct training courses in the regional countries.