

Current Status of Education on Health Information Management around the World

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Abstract We conducted a fact-finding survey from 2008 to June 2009 to contribute to the WHO-FIC Education Committee's educational activities and the Asia-Pacific Network's ICD implementation activities. Based on information from members of the EC, Asia-Pacific Network, and IFHRO, we report on classifications, certifying organizations in health information management and coding, education, and qualifications in 17 countries.

Introduction

The objective of our survey was to investigate the state of health information management education around the world and to effectively use the findings of the survey to improve the quality of education and widely promote the implementation of ICD around the world.

Methods & Materials

From April 2008 to June 2009, we asked members of WHO-FIC Education Committee, the Asia-Pacific Network, and IFHRO to cooperate in the survey, and were able to obtain the cooperation of 17 countries. The survey was conducted by interview and e-mail. Questions were asked on basic information, classifications used in each country, educational institutions, certifying institutions, and qualifications.

Results

1. Background Information on the Countries Surveyed: Table 1

With the situation in each country differing widely, the state of health information management varied accordingly.

Table 1. Basic Data of Countries Surveyed

Country	Population *1	Number of hospitals *2	Hospital beds per 10,000 population *1	Number of hospital beds (approx.) *2
Japan	127,967,000	8,915	140 (127)	1,625,752
USA	305,826,000	5,708	31	945,199
UK	60,769,000	1,600	39	235,997
India	1,169,016,000	9,923	7 (6)	683,545
Australia	20,743,000	1,301	40	82,622
Oman	2,595,000	58	20	5,270
Canada	32,876,000	700	34	110,600
Rep. of Korea	48,224,000	2,082	86 (87)	417,387
Singapore	4,436,000	29	32 (26)	11,547
Sweden	9,119,000	90	-	-
Thailand	63,884,000	1,292	22 (21)	134,453
Germany	82,599,000	2,200	83 (61)	506,954
Papua New Guinea	6,331,000	224	-	-
Fiji	839,000	29	21	1,768
Brazil	191,791,000	7,806	24 (25)	485,000
Vietnam	87,375,000	1,492	27 (26)	224,251
Malaysia	26,572,000	331	18	47,784

Source: *1 Data compiled from World Health Statistics 2009.
*2 Data compiled from WHO Regional Offices' and individual countries' websites.
The figures in parentheses were obtained by dividing the number of beds above by the population (for every 10,000).

Table 2. Classifications Used in Each Country

Country	Mortality	Morbidity	
		Diagnosis	Procedure
Japan	ICD-10	ICD-10	ICD-9-CM
USA	ICD-10	ICD-9-CM	CPT, etc.
UK	ICD-10	ICD-10	OPCS-4
India	ICD-10	ICD-10	—
Australia	ICD-10-AM (ICD-10)	ICD-10-AM	ACHI
Oman	ICD-10	ICD-10	ICPM(1978)/ICD-9-CM
Canada	ICD-10	ICD-10-CA	CCI
Republic of Korea	KCD-4 (=ICD-10)	KCD-4 (=ICD-10)	ICD-9-CM
Singapore	ICD-9	ICD-9	ICD-9-CM
		ICD-9-CM	Table of Surgical Procedures
Sweden	ICD-10	ICD-10	NCSP
Thailand	ICD-10-TM (ICD-10)	ICD-10-TM	ICD-9-CM--
		ICD-10-TM procedure code	—
Germany	ICD-10	ICD-10-GM	OPS
Papua New Guinea	ICD-10	ICD-10	PNG Short List
Fiji	ICD-10-AM (ICD-10)	ICD-10-AM	ACHI
Brazil	ICD-10	ICD-10	Brazilian national classification
Vietnam	ICD-10	ICD-10	—
Malaysia	ICD-10	ICD-10	ICD-9-CM

Results

2. Classifications: Table 2

With the exception of Singapore, which uses ICD-9, all countries use ICD-10 for mortality classification. On the other hand, half the countries use the national modifications of ICD-10 for morbidity classification. The procedure classifications vary from country to country.

3. Educational Institutions, Certifying Organizations, and Qualifications: Table 3

HIM education is provided in countries like the U.S., Australia, Republic of Korea, and Japan. The U.S. and Australia, in particular, have a variety of educational programs. In countries with a relatively short history of providing education, there is a tendency for public institutions to play the primary role in giving coder education. The educational institutions are mostly governments, schools, and professional organizations. Japan is the only country with an association of hospitals providing educational programs.

Table 3. Educational Institutions, Certifying Organizations, and Names of Qualifications in Each Country (by public and private institutions)

Country	HIM/Coder	Educational Institution	Certifying Organization
UK	HIM	NHS (National Health Service), universities, etc.	—
	Coder	NHS, universities, etc.	NHS/IHRIM
India	HIM	CBHI (Central Bureau of Health Intelligence)	CBHI
	Coder	CBHI	—
Oman	HIM	OMRI (Oman Medical Record Institute)	OMRI
	Coder	OMRI	OMRI
Republic of Korea	HIM	Universities and colleges designated by the Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Family Affairs
Singapore	Coder	Recommendation of the Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health
Thailand	Coder	THCC (Thai Health Coding Center of the Ministry of Public Health), vocational colleges	—
Papua New Guinea	Coder	National Government - Department of Health	—
Fiji	Coder	Fiji Health Sector Improvement Program Conducted by HIMAA	—
Brazil	Coder	Collaborating Centre for the WHO-FIC in Portuguese, OJT (in hospitals)	—
Vietnam	HIM	Ministry of Health, universities	—
Malaysia	HIM	IDS (the government's Information and Documentation System Unit), OJT (in hospitals), (overseas)	—
	Coder	IDS, OJT (in hospitals)	—

2. Private institutions (1) Education and certification

Country	HIM/Coder	Educational Institution	Certifying Organization
Japan	HIM	Japan Hospital Association	Congress of Four Hospital Associations (inc. JHA) and Foundation for Promotion of Medical Training
	HIA	Designated universities and vocational colleges	Japan Society of Health Information Management
USA	HIM	AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association), CAHIIM designated universities, vocational colleges, etc.	AHIMA
	Coder	AHIMA, AAPC (American Academy of Professional Coders), universities, etc.	AHIMA, AAPC
UK	HIM	IHRIM (Institute of Health Record and Information Management), universities, etc.	IHRIM
Australia	HIM	Universities (four)	—
	HIMAA	HIMAA (Health Information Management Association of Australia), NCCH (National Center for Classification in Health)	HIMAA
Canada	HIM	HIMAA, NCCH, CCSA (Clinical Coders' Society of Australia)	HIMAA
	Coder	CHIMA (Canadian Health Information Management Association), designated universities and vocational colleges	CHIMA (Canadian College of Health Information Management)
Singapore	HIM	CHIMA, designated universities and vocational colleges	—
Sweden	HIM	—(Overseas)	—
Germany	HIM	EMENDOR Consulting, OJT (in hospitals)	—
Germany	HIM	Junior colleges, universities	—
	Coder	Hospitals	—

Country	HIM/Coder	Qualification	Country	HIM/Coder	Qualification
Japan	HIM	Health Information Manager (HIM)	Australia	HIM	Certified Health Information Manager (CHIM)
	HIM	Health Information Administrator (HIA)		Coder	Certified Health Information Practitioner (CHIP)
USA	HIM	Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)	Canada	HIM	(Name of exam: CCC=Clinical Coder Certification)
	Coder	Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)		HIM	Health Information Management Professional (Name of exam: National Certification Examination)
UK	HIM	CPC, CPC-H, CPC-P, etc.	Germany	HIM	Assistant for Medical Documentation
	HIM	Associate Health Record Information Manager (AHRIM)		Medical Documentalist	
		Certified Health Record Information Manager (CHRIM)			Diploma Documentalist

The results of our survey showed that the education provided in each of the 17 countries that kindly cooperated in the survey is diverse. In particular, we noted that Vietnam had begun morbidity coding through their participation in the Asia-Pacific Network meeting, which is possibly contributing to the implementation of ICD.

The survey also revealed that with the exception of countries like Japan, it is rare for physicians and nurses to obtain the qualification of "health information managers." The author presented the results of the survey at Japan Society of Health Information Management in 2008. The details of the presentation are reported in the society journal, Shinryo Joho Kanri (Health Information Management), vol. 21, no. 1 (June 2009).

We hope that accurate understanding of the state of education on health information in countries around the world and sharing of the information gained will lead to the improvement and development of health information management education in respective countries and to implementation of ICD in more countries.