

# WHO Family of International Classifications Network Annual Meeting 2010

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Toronto / Canada

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## **Executive Summary**

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### **Abstract**

The WHOFIC Network Annual Meeting served to review the work on all activities within the WHO Family of International Classifications in line with the Strategic Work Plan of the Network. The special theme of the Annual Meeting was “Data makes a difference”, accordingly many activities in the WHOFIC were reviewed from the angle of the difference they make. Additional highlights of the meeting were: Linking WHO Classifications with Terminologies in a Joint session with IHTSDO; using WHO Classifications to monitor vital events with IT applications: “MoveIT” a Joint Session with WHO Regional Advisors, and participation of WHOFIC Network in the ICD Revision Process by way of horizontal TAGs – in particular in areas of Mortality, Morbidity, Functioning and Disability and Safety and Quality.

The Strategic Workplan for the WHOFIC Network was reviewed and updated on the parameters of resources, deliverables and utility of products.

In all committees and reference groups, elections of co-chairs took place. In accordance with the election results, WHOFIC Council and the Small Executive Group (SEG) were reconstituted. The work of the Network, its committees and reference groups will continue in line with the Strategic Work Plan and will be monitored by the SEG and the WHOFIC Council.

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## 1. Opening

The WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network Annual Meeting was opened on 21 October 2010 with a welcoming address by Louis Barré (Canadian Institute for Health Information), Gary Catlin (Statistics Canada) and Jennifer Madans on behalf of Edward Sondik (National Center for Health Statistics, CDC, USA).

The officials welcomed the delegates to Toronto, and emphasized the importance of classification systems as international data standards in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Furthermore, they stressed the significance of the WHO-FIC network annual meeting as a mechanism for exchanging information and enhancing the understanding among countries for common concepts of health- and health related classifications and terminologies.

Dr. Ties Boerma, Director, Health Statistics and Informatics, welcomed the participants on behalf of WHO through a videoconference and Dr. Bedirhan Ustun, Coordinator, Classification, Terminologies and Standards summarized the "State of the WHOFIC" in the last year. Key achievements were the work on the ICD Revision, start of ICF Updates, Project Plan on ICHI and activities in the area of Traditional Medicine and Patient Safety Classifications. Establishment of the Collaborative Arrangement with the IHTSDO was a major step forward. WHO also started an active collaboration with ISO on Health Information Standards.

The International Methodology Consortium for Coded Health Information (IMECCHI) met concurrently with the WHO-FIC Network and joined the plenary sessions.

The meeting particularly noted the World Statistics Day observed on the 20 October 2010 and exchanged reciprocal messages with the International Statistical Institute on the longstanding collaboration on vital statistics and WHO Classifications.

## 1. Participants

198 international participants attended the WHOFIC Network Annual Meeting with representatives from 12 WHOFIC Collaborating Centres, and 6 Collaborating Centers under designation (South Africa, Kuwait, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Spain) as well as representatives from Ministries of Health and National Statistical Bureaus from 21 countries. Five of the 6 WHO Regional Advisors were present (AMRO, EURO, EMRO, SEARO, WPRO) in the meeting. List of participants is presented in the Appendix 2.

Members of the Network noted with regret that Collaborating Centres' representatives from Russia and former UK Centre were unable to attend. Members also urged the need to continue efforts to finalize the arrangements for additional collaborating centres, keeping in mind the widest possible geographic coverage.

The Council discussed ways to preserve and enhance the WHO-FIC Network.

## 2. Committees, and Reference Groups

The WHOFIC Network had decided to condense the number of committees and reference group by merging Education Committee with the Implementation Committee and Electronic Tools Committee with Terminology Reference Group. The newly formed merged committee are named "Education and Implementation Committee" (EIC) and "Informatics and Terminology Committee" (ITC) respectively.

In addition it is decided to suspend the work of the "Morbidity Reference Group" until the release of the ICD-11. During this period, the members of this group will participate in the work of the Morbidity TAG of the ICD Revision. The Morbidity TAG will meet in conjunction with the Annual Meetings to enable participation for Network representatives.

All Committees and Reference Groups as well as the Mortality and Morbidity TAGs and Functioning TAG of the ICD Revision held and concluded their meetings before the WHO-FIC Network conference began. Each of the

committees and reference groups presented an annual report of their activities and compiled a detailed meeting report for the relevant stream of work. These reports are available on the meeting website.

In all committees and reference groups elections of co-chairs took place and the membership was updated. The current chairs of the Committees and Reference Groups are as follows:

EIC: Cassia Maria Buchalla, Sue Walker  
URC: Mea Renahan, Francesco Gongolo  
FDC: Richard Madden, Huib Ten Napel  
ITC: Stefanie Weber, Sukil Kim

MRG: Donna Hoyert, Patricia Wood  
FDRG: Ros Madden, Gerold Stucki

### **3. International Classification of Diseases (ICD)**

Work on the ICD is addressed in committees for education and implementation (EIC), update and revision (URC), informatics and terminologies (ITC) and the relationship to other WHOIC Members (FDC). Technical issues are addressed by the Mortality Reference Group as well as the Morbidity TAG of the ICD Revision.

#### **3.1 ICD Implementation and Education**

The ICD-10 Web-based Training Tool was presented, and plans for its timely finalization were established. The Education and Implementation Committee discussed translation and ongoing support of this tool. A report was received on the development and pilot testing in South Korea of an international morbidity coding exam; work on the morbidity exam will continue, and other countries agreed to conduct pilot tests and report experiences at the 2011 mid-year meeting, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary on March 28-30, 2011. A regional approach to promoting the International Training and Certification Program for Mortality and Morbidity Coders and Trainers and other EIC products was proposed.

#### **3.2 ICD Update and Revision**

Over the course of one and a half days the Update and Revision Committee (URC)

- Ratified 101 recommendations for updating the ICD-10
- Requested that all in attendance review the current membership of the URC and identify voting members and observers.
- Reminded all in attendance that the platform is open to all members for submission and comment on proposals
- Discussed whether ICD-10 would continue to include minor and major updates through to 2016. This practice will continue and be revisited annually to examine the possibility of transitioning resources and processes to support the ICD-11 revision.

#### ***Highlights of the meeting decisions - -***

##### ***ICD-10 Update proposals***

- 60 approved
- 12 rejected
- 16 held over – 6 were proposals from the MBRG on morbidity coding rules
- 6 referred to ICD-11 TAGs
- 7 withdrawn
- A small group was formed to address the 6 morbidity coding rule proposals and bring them forward to the ICD-10+platform by April 30, 2011
- New codes for
  - U06.- and U07.- have been designated for WHO emergency use only – country specific modifications are not to use these rubrics

- Haemorrhoids are moving from the Circulatory chapter to the Digestive chapter
- Atrial fibrillation and flutter

### 3.2.1 Mortality Reference and Mortality TAG Work

The Mortality Reference Group (MRG) met in a pre-meeting of the WHO-FIC Network meeting. About 40 issues were discussed, representing a range of kinds of issues and stages of development from those being presented for the first time to those that just needed confirmation that they were ready to be submitted to the URC. The MRG reviewed work completed since the mid-year meeting, continued ongoing discussions, and discussed new issues.

In the Mortality TAG sessions, after a brief update on the revision process, the group focused on the major tasks that the m-TAG has identified in their work program and how to perform these tasks.

Highlights of the discussion were:

- ICD revision:
  - Joint session with mTAG to work through the mTAG workplan
  - New international medical certification form with expanded items that have implications for coding
  - Presentation from Injury TAG on restructuring proposal.
- Ongoing issues:
  - Maternal and perinatal deaths; immaturity; multiple injuries; carbon monoxide; smoke inhalation; alcohol-related deaths
  - International coordination (maintenance of automated software decision tables)

### 3.2.2 Morbidity Reference Work

The work of the “Morbidity Reference Group” is suspended until the release of ICD-11. During this period, the members of this group will participate in the work of the Morbidity TAG of the ICD Revision.

## 4. ICD Informatics and Terminologies

In the joint sessions with International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) the groups shared information on the future plans for the linkages between ICD and SNOMED-CT.

In these sessions, IHTSDO informed the meeting about their efforts on the ICD-10 to SNOMED-CT maps. It is agreed that in any mapping effort between WHO classifications and SNOMED-CT, there is a need for a quality assurance assessment by comparison to a gold standard to be defined jointly by WHO and IHTSDO.

The usage of terminologies in the development of ICD11 was explained and discussed in these joint sessions.

## 5. International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF)

ICF work is structured along different streams of work that relate to implementation, education, updates and electronic tools and relationship to other members of WHO-FIC. Technical issues are addressed by the Functioning and Disability Reference Group.

### 5.1 ICF Implementation and Education

ICF Introductory eLearning tool was presented, and plans for its timely finalization were established. The Education and Implementation Committee discussed development of additional modules as well as translation and ongoing support for this tool.

A questionnaire and a process for establishing the ICF Implementation Database on the WHO website was presented. The previously approved Checklist for Implementation of WHO-FIC at the country level was

accepted for posting, distribution and evaluation. Seven finalized Information Sheets were presented: ICD, ICF, Training and Certification to Promote High-Quality Data, What You Should Know about Clinical Documentation, Uses of Coded Clinical Data, Mortality Cause-of-Death Data, and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

## 5.2 ICF updates

- 200+ proposals, mainly recommendations from the ICF-CY group have been uploaded to the ICF Update Platform
- All current proposals are grouped as major or minor following existing WHO definition
- The FDRG will continue to review the proposals on the platform and the URC will assist the membership in understanding and applying the standardized procedures
- 15 proposals were brought forward and approved by the URC
- The Italian Collaborating Centre will establish a secretariat in support of updating the ICF.
- The detailed report provided by the FDRG to the URC will be appended to the detailed URC report.

## 5.3 ICF Informatics and Terminologies

Work on the ontological structure of ICF was presented. The development of an ICF Ontology was conducted to enhance the structure of the ICF and to eliminate ambiguous terminology. As well the linkage of ICF to ICD-11 in the revision process was presented. With this linkage and the linkage to SNOMED CT the two classifications should be enhanced concerning clarity and usability by the underpinning of the terminology.

## 5.4 Functioning and Disability reference work

A draft version of the ICF Use Guidelines was presented and discussed. A small 'publication group' was established to redesign the completed draft and prepare it for publication.

A number of ICF information products have been completed including an ICF Overview document and a ICF Information sheet. The documents have been submitted to WHO for update and dissemination through the ICF website.

Progress on a generic/parsimonious ICF set was reported and ongoing work on functioning and disability measurement discussed and included on the forthcoming WHO-FIC strategic work plan. Collaboration with the Washington Group in this work was supported.

Initial tasks on the environmental factors (EF) component have been completed. A paper on operationalisation of EF is in the publication process.

A resolution in support of joint work with the ISO9999 working group was agreed by FDC and the Council, and plans for the forthcoming year outlined. Members of FDRG will work with FDC to ensure appropriate input on functioning and disability to ICHI, ISO9999 and other classifications development work.

The co-chair of the ITC attended the FDRG meeting and introduced participants to ontology work. A small group will work with ITC on an upper level ontology for ICF.

In line with the new, simplified, product-focused SWP the FDRG identified the following key products for 2011:

- i. Reviewed ICF update proposals (focus on processing ICF-CY related updates)
- ii. ICF Use Guidelines prepare publishable draft ready by end 2011
- iii. Enhanced Web-base platform to map assessment instruments to ICF and publish results of the data analyses on parsimonious ICF set

## 6. WHO-FIC - other Fields

The FDC reported on the following activities:

- **ICHI development:** there were presentations on the ICHI content model, mapping exercise and a sample ICHI produced from this work. Work is progressing towards the development of an alpha draft for October 2011.
- **System of Health Accounts:** there is continued involvement in axis revision as part of SHA revision with the current stage of the revision process being further discussed.
- **International Classification for Patient Safety (ICPS):** content model was presented and discussed. Opportunities for alignment of classifications, in particular with ICHI, were also raised. FDC would welcome inclusion in the ICPS development process.
- **Traditional Medicine:** WHO described the first steps in the development of ICTM and alignment with WHO-FIC reference classifications. FDC welcomed its inclusion in the development process.
- **Alignment of WHO-FIC classifications:** inconsistencies between ICF and ISO9999 were discussed and a process is proposed to increase alignment. A resolution is proposed for Council consideration.

*Serve global users*

- **ICHI** is being designed as an interventions classification which can be used and adapted internationally with a broad scope and a framework which can be modified for individual country or specialised requirements especially in light of the retirement of ICD-9-CM Volume 3.

### **Other business**

The strategic workplan for the FDC 2010-2011 was reviewed and submitted to Council.

The mid-year meeting of the FDC is planned to be held in Sydney, Australia, in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The Italian Centre will host a workshop in early 2011 to discuss funding of stage 3 of ICHI development.

## 7. Strategic Work Plan and Network Governance

The strategic work plan (SWP) identifies the key deliverables (products) of the WHO-FIC Committees and Reference Groups. For each product the related activities, resources, timelines, success indicators, focal points and linkages with WHO-FIC goals and objectives have to be specified.

The content and review mechanism of the SWP were discussed during the meeting. The SWP is designed to support the HIS/CTS work in countries, regions and at global level. Hence, particular attention to discuss the SWP with the WHO Regional Advisers for Health Statistics and Information. As a result, the following three to max six deliverables for each C/RG were identified for 2011. Furthermore, the following focal point for coordinating the SWP within each C/RG were nominated.

EIC: implementation database; e-learning tool (Marjorie Greenberg)

URC: ICD revision strategy, ICF updates, ICD 10-11 transition planning (Mea Renahan)

ITC: Formal Knowledge Representation, Classification Terminology Linkage; Quality Assurance for linkages (Stefanie Weber)

FDC: ICHI, Rules for Classification Terminology Linkage standards (Bedirhan Ustun)

MRG: Revised Death Certificate, Mortality Knowledge Base (Robert Jakob)

## 9. Network Meetings

In 2011, the WHO-FIC Network will meet from 29 October to 4<sup>th</sup> November in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting will be hosted by the Collaborating Center in South Africa.

The WHO-FIC meeting for 2012 and 2013 are scheduled to take place in Mexico and China. Confirmation regarding the hosting of the 2012 in Mexico is expected by beginning of 2011. 2014 Meeting is proposed to take place in Barcelona, Spain.

All References to committee reports are published on the website of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the WHO-FIC Network: **[www.who.int/classifications/meeting2010](http://www.who.int/classifications/meeting2010)**

- Council (Documents C001A)
- Education and Implementation Committee (Document C002A)
- Informatics and Terminologies Committee (Document C003A)
- Family Development Committee (Document C004A)
- Update, and Revision Committee (Document C005A)
- Functioning, and Disability Reference Group (Document C006A)
- Mortality Reference Group (Document C009A)
- Mortality TAG
- Morbidity TAG