Education Committee – Meeting Report

Marjorie S. Greenberg, Chair

Aims
Advise and assist WHO and WHO-FIC Network in improving the level and quality of use of the Family of Classifications
Ensure that coded and classified health data are consistent, of high quality and comparable within and among WHO member states
Identify best practices and provide a network for sharing expertise and experience on education and training

The Education Committee held three working sessions, one jointly with the Implementation Committee regarding ICF Tasks. Papers presented were:
- Education Committee Annual report
- WHO-FIC – IFHRO Joint Committee report
- ICF Structured Data Collection Pilot study
- ICF Thailand Workshop

Generic Tasks
The Terms of reference were confirmed.
The Committee had organized an Orientation session for new attendees at the WHO-FIC Network meetings in 2004 and 2005, developed a dynamic list of abbreviations and acronyms and frequently asked questions for the WHO-FIC website and is developing brochures on the Network’s activities.

Updated list of Abbreviations and Acronyms:
- Will be maintained by Committee and updated on annual basis
- Will post on Collaborative Workspace and liaise with WHO about posting on WHO-FIC website and developing hyperlinks

Frequently Asked Questions
- Liaise with WHO and other Committees

International Training and Certification Program
The Committee reported significant progress on developing the International Training and Certification Program for ICD-10 Mortality and Morbidity coders. The Joint Committee with the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO) was established and held five teleconferences and an in-person meeting since the 2004 Network meeting. The Joint Committee had circulated a call for ICD-10 training materials, which
are undergoing a qualitative review in reference to the Core Curricula developed by the Education Committee and IFHRO. Processes for certifying existing coders for underlying cause of death and recognizing approved ICD-10 trainers are under development. These will include a self assessment and an exam on how to code; the Brazilian Centre is taking the lead in developing the exam. The Mortality Reference Group (MRG) has reviewed the draft process for assessment of existing Underlying Cause of Death coders and has nominated a representative to the Committee; members of the MRG have offered to test any exam that is developed.

An Infrastructure Workgroup was established during the meeting to further define the business processes, identify aspects that require funding, identify potential sources of funds and develop funding proposals for carrying forward the international program. The American Health Information Management Association has indicated willingness to “incubate” the program, but IFHRO will need to hire a part-time staff person for coordination and administration.

ICF Structured Data Collection
The Education and Implementation Committees carried out a pilot study in 2004-2005 for the collection of information on ICF education and implementation material around the world. The purpose was to test if it is useful to gather information in a more structured way than is commonly done. Collaborating Centres and Regional Offices were invited to participate in the pilot. Approximately 30 responses were received from 14 countries.

The initial step of the pilot showed that it was useful to collect information in a pre-structured way because it could easily be processed and be made available for sharing by using ClaML for representation and organizing the information. The second phase showed that the Collaborative Workspace currently was not suitable as an input mechanism.

The Data Collection tool will be revised to include common set of questions and specific modules for education, implementation, qualifiers and electronic tools. Full reporting will be solicited with a Word document. The results will be posted on Collaborative Workspace.

ICF Workshop Thailand
In collaboration with the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre, the WHO-FIC Network held a two-day “ICF Workshop Thailand” on May 2-3, 2005 in
Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately 87 participants from throughout Thailand attended the workshop. The purposes of the workshop were to provide practical information on ICF tools and applications worldwide and to facilitate development of an action plan for implementation of ICF in Thailand. This workshop fulfilled the goal identified at the 2004 WHO-FIC Network meeting to focus on activities to raise ICF awareness. Workshop participants expressed satisfaction with the content and format of the sessions and also offered suggestions for improvement. The local host was key to the success of the workshop. Lessons learned from this successful workshop can guide future ICF educational activities. The Education and Implementation Committees will continue to look for such opportunities. It was agreed to develop a “library” of modular PowerPoint presentations on Collaborative Workspace for others interested in ICF training.

Dissemination

The article based on the needs assessment conducted in 2003-2004 is being finalized and will be submitted to WHO for publication in a future WHO Bulletin issue on Classifications.

The Joint Committee is developing a brochure on the International Training and Certification Program based on the Education Committee brochure. The Education Committee also agreed to work with WHO on development of a single brochure for the WHO-FIC Network.

Members of the Education and Joint Committees have made a number of presentations this past year on their activities and will continue to seek opportunities for sharing information at national and international meetings.

Future Work

The Education and Joint Committees will continue to work on the International Training and Certification Program for ICD coders, including developing funding proposals to support the program. The aim is to present the first certificates to practicing coders in 2007.

A mid-year meeting will be held in May 2006 and will include a session on training for certifiers of cause-of-death.

Committee members were encouraged to use the collaborative workspace on the WHO-FIC Web site and to gain some experience using it.