

International Classification of Diseases

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems: update on the eleventh revision

Report by the Director-General

1. The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (often referred to as the International Classification of Diseases, ICD) is the global standard classification for mortality and morbidity statistics. Data on mortality by age, sex and cause of death are the foundation of public health, and the Sustainable Development Goals have several cause-specific mortality indicators.
2. Implementation of the tenth revision of ICD (ICD-10) started in 1994. About 120 countries report cause-of-death data to WHO based on ICD-10, but only half of those report data of good quality. Many countries are applying the International Classification of Diseases to morbidity data and using it for billing for health insurance.
3. In 2016, the Executive Board at its 139th session noted a report on features of the eleventh revision (ICD-11) and progress so far.¹

PROGRESS WITH THE ELEVENTH REVISION

4. The ICD-11 revision conference (Tokyo, 12–14 October 2016) provided positive feedback on the content and structure of ICD-11 to WHO by countries and specialists.²
5. In January 2017, the Secretariat sought comments from Member States on ICD-11's new content, structure and features, implementation needs, and data priorities in relation to the 2016 version of the eleventh revision,³ and received feedback, including shared responses, from Member States from all regions.
6. New proposals for changes to that version of ICD-11 that were submitted by the deadline of 31 March 2017, as well as inputs from field testing and dedicated scientific reviews were taken into

¹ See documents EB139/7 and EB139/2016/REC/1, summary records of the third meeting, section 1.

² See report of the Revision Conference (<http://www.who.int/classifications/network/meeting2016/ICD-11RevisionConferenceReportTokyo.pdf?ua=1>, accessed 8 March 2018).

³ Circular letter C.L.2.2017.

account.¹ Some scientific aspects are under review with relevant departments in the Secretariat and the Medical Scientific Advisory Committee for WHO classifications.

7. The Secretariat has field tested ICD-11 in 31 countries in all regions; a total of 1673 participants have performed more than 112 383 code assignments. Testing included reviews and coding trials by scientific societies, as reported in the ICD Update newsletter.¹

8. Regional consultations on implementation have just been completed. The time remaining before the scheduled release of the version that will allow preparation for implementation in June 2018 is being dedicated to editing, error checking, and production of the accompanying materials. New proposals received after 31 March 2017 will be processed according to the routine post-release maintenance procedure. Relevant committees and working groups are in place for the post-release phase.

9. The work on linkage to other terminologies, such as the International Nonproprietary Names and the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine-Clinical Terms, is ongoing.

10. Final technical consultations in April 2018 with statisticians and other experts will serve as the last quality-assurance step before the release of ICD-11.

RELEASE OF THE ELEVENTH REVISION

11. Delays in the testing made it impossible to keep to the original timeline that foresaw submission of ICD-11 to the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in May 2018. In order not to compromise preparations for implementation and related materials that the Secretariat has already started and not to delay the start of preparations being undertaken by countries, the issue of a version for preparation of implementation is scheduled for June 2018.

12. The final version of ICD-11 will be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019 through the Executive Board at its 144th session.

13. Translations of ICD-11 into Chinese and Spanish are nearly complete and about to start for other official languages. For the Arabic, French and Russian versions, matching content from ICD-10 has already been migrated to the respective language versions of ICD-11. Some countries have already migrated matching parts of their language versions of ICD-10 to ICD-11 in order to assess the amount of work necessary for translation and plan the translation process. Translations of the implementation materials will follow.

14. The release of a version of ICD-11 in June 2018 (also referred to as “version for implementation”) will allow preparation for implementation pending consideration of the final version by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly. The structure and coding of ICD-11, as well as the accompanying materials, will remain unchanged, so that Member States can make plans for national use and translations. It is expected that during this phase Member States will inform the Secretariat about suggested improvements to user guidance. In this way the Classification, for the first time in its history, will have received input based on practical experience and identified needs before its submission to the Health Assembly, and be available in multiple languages, with a full set of manuals

¹ See ICD-11 Update (http://www.who.int/classifications/2017_10_ICD11_Newsletter.pdf?ua=1, accessed 8 March 2018).

and coding tools. It is foreseen that, based on that input, a final version will be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly.

15. An implementation package comprising all materials necessary to support implementation of ICD-11 at country level will accompany the release in June 2018. It will contain training materials, implementation guidance, transition tables, translation tools, information about governance and maintenance, and different formats of ICD-11 for incorporation into existing health-reporting systems – for use of ICD-11 on paper, offline and online.

16. ICD-10 and its materials for implementation will remain available, but maintenance of ICD-10 after 2019 will be restricted to corrections of errors and clarifications.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

17. The Board is invited to note this report.

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