Update and Revision Committee - Annual report
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Abstract
This is the seventh annual report of the WHO Update and Revision Committee. Eighty-six recommendations were received. Of these, 62 were accepted and a new category for Avian Flu was established at the Annual WHO-FIC meeting held in Tokyo, Japan 16 – 22 October, 2005. Rules for translating the ICD were affirmed and discussion was had around the validation of translations. This year marked the establishment of a WHO web platform to facilitate the process for submitting, reviewing and commenting on recommendations for updating the ICD-10 for 2006. At the Planning Committee meeting held in Paris, France 27 – 28, April 2006 there was extensive discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the URC. A separate paper “Update and Revision Committee – Future Directions” has been prepared for discussion at the 2006 WHO-FIC meeting of the URC membership.

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Introduction

This is the seventh annual report of the WHO Update and Revision Committee (URC). The URC was established in March 2000 to recommend modifications to ICD-10 to the annual meeting of Heads of WHO Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC). The following is a summary of this WHO-FIC Committee’s achievements for the year 2005.

URC Work Programme and Achievements in 2005

Eighty-six (86) recommendations for change were considered by the URC during 2005. Consensus was reached on thirty-six (36) recommendations prior to the WHO-FIC Network meeting in Tokyo, Japan (October 2005). Forty-four (44) recommendations were decided at the meeting. An additional three (3) were withdrawn prior to the meeting and three (3) identified errata in the paper version of 2003.

Of these forty-four (44) recommendations:

- Twenty-eight (28) were supported for inclusion;
- Seven (7) were held over for further work by the URC;
- Nine (9) were not supported/withdrawn.

Some of the major decisions reached in 2005 were:

Creation of the following new codes:

- L89.- Stages of pressure areas and ulcers
- K51.- and K52.3 – new codes added to improve classification of ulcerative colitis and indeterminate colitis
- B19.- Acute hepatitis NOS
- R65.- Systemic inflammatory response syndrome – new category and codes

Creation of the following new category

- J09 Influenza due to Avian influenza virus

Other activities:

- Establishment of an on-line submission, comments and voting process on the following WHO webpage: http://extranet.who.int/icdrevision/default.aspx
• Support for the establishment of a Morbidity Reference Group
• A determination that translated versions of volume 1 (tabular) of ICD-10 must match the English version and that volume 3 (indices) will be language specific but must direct users to the same codes as ICD-10 English

Official updates

Overall, there was consensus on 77% of the recommendations for change in 2005 and full support for the addition of category J09. These have now been included in the official updates for ICD-10. The URC produced the official updates in two formats:

• Individual list of official updates for 2005
• Cumulative list of official updates from 1996 to 2005

The cumulative list includes the corrigenda and the unique URC work item identifier, source of recommendation, date update approved, type of update (major/minor), and implementation date.

The official updates were sent to WHO in January 2006. Revisions were made between January and March 2006. The updates are available for downloading on the WHO ICD-10 URC web page: http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/icd10updates/en/index.html

URC Forum

The URC Forum is an e-mail morbidity discussion list established by the URC in 2001. The two objectives of the discussion list are:

1. To provide a forum for discussion of morbidity coding and classification issues for members of the URC and other Collaborating Centre nominated representatives.

2. To provide a forum for further discussion of URC work items between URC members with the aim of streamlining the URC process.

Some of the topics discussed this year on the URC forum, which may in turn provide the basis for future proposals, include:

• Dissection of precerebral and other arteries
• Correct Use of the external cause code Y84.0
• Code assignment for the incorrect use of the drug Benzylpiperazine

Following the formal introduction of the Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG), it may be determined that questions normally posed to the URC Forum, may be more appropriately directed to the MbRG.

Workload for 2006

Examples of major work items under consideration by the URC in 2006 are:
- Changing the definition of blindness
- New code for inclusion body myositis
- Updating mortality coding rules for deaths due to multiple drug combinations
- New code for long QT syndrome
- New code for ‘other primary malignant neoplasm of liver stated to be primary, not elsewhere classified.
- New code for preterm delivery without labour

In the period from January to June 2006, 94 new recommendations for update to ICD-10 were received by the URC secretariat. There were seven (7) items held over from 2005, four (4) of which were discrepancies between the English and French versions. These four (4) will be dealt with separately by WHO, along with others identified by Canada in its production of CIM-10-CA. Two (2) items were added to the recommendations for 2006 for a total of 97 proposals. One (1) item, URC #0327, was dealt with and included in the 2005 updates. An additional nine (9) issues were discussed by the MRG, with no change to the classification required.

Other issues in relation to the work of the URC

Presentations on the future role of the URC were made by the chair of the URC and Dr. Bedirhan Üstun, Coordinator, Classifications and Terminology WHO, to the WHO-FIC Planning Committee at a meeting held in Paris, France 27 – 28 April, 2006. A summary of these presentations and the recommendations of the Planning Committee and, the chair and ad hoc chairs of the Reference Groups will be presented for discussion in the URC sessions at the annual WHO-FIC meeting to be held in Tunis, Tunisia 2006.