

Training and Certification to Promote High-Quality Data

What is the WHO-FIC Network?

The World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centres for the Family of International Classifications (FIC) (WHO-FIC) are an international network of expert centres in health classifications, coding and terminology development.

The mission of the WHO-FIC Network is to improve health through the ongoing development of an integrated suite of health classifications and related products that produce information of value and utility across the world. The principal role of the WHO-FIC network is to promote the implementation and use of the Family of International Classifications in health information systems.

The Family includes three core (“reference”) classifications. The *International Statistical Classifications of Diseases and Related Health Problems* (ICD), which is used to classify diseases and related health problems, such as symptoms and injury. Functioning is classified separately in the *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health* (ICF) together with environmental factors. The third reference classification, the *International Classification of Health Interventions* (ICHI), is in the final stages of development and classifies health interventions delivered across all sectors of the health system.

These reference classifications are used in hospitals, health and community services, statistical agencies, and for research purposes to describe the morbidity, mortality, health interventions, functioning and disability of individuals and populations. (<http://www.who.int/classifications>)

What is the Education & Implementation Committee?

The purpose of the EIC is to:

- Assist and advise WHO and the WHO-FIC Network in implementing the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) and improving the level and quality of their use in Member States.
- Track implementation of the classifications and develop implementation, education, training and certification strategies for the WHO-FIC, identifying best training and implementation practices and providing a network for sharing expertise and experience on training and implementation.

The aim of the EIC is to assist and advise WHO and the WHO-FIC Network in implementing the WHO Family of International Classifications and improving the level and quality of their use in Member States. The goal is to ensure standardised, high quality coding of health data for comparability within and among WHO Member States.

What is the International Training and Certification Program?

The WHO-FIC Network and IFHIMA have collaborated since 2004 to further advance coding practice via international training and certification. The current collaboration for this is the EIC, which includes representatives of WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres, IFHIMA and other WHO member countries.

Goals are to improve the quality of mortality and morbidity data, and the competence of ICD coders, and thus their status. Certificates have been awarded in mortality (i.e. underlying cause of death coding) to experienced coders in several countries, who were successful in completion of pilot exams. Certificates were awarded in Korea, Canada, the UK and the US. A similar program for morbidity coders is under consideration and investigation.

What is IFHIMA?

IFHIMA is a non-profit organisation with official relations to the World Health Organization (WHO) as a recognised non-governmental organisation (NGO). IFHIMA sends representatives to WHO meetings and works closely with WHO on specific projects of particular concern or interest to WHO in the field of health records and health information.

Currently IFHIMA is working on a project with the WHO Family of International Classifications (the WHO-FIC IFHIMA Joint Collaboration) to develop and promote an international training strategy and explore development of international certification strategy for coders. www.ifhima.org

Online education

The EIC has developed core curricula for training ICD-10 mortality and morbidity coders and also developed a core curriculum for certifiers of underlying cause of death. These curricula became the framework for development of a web-based training tool for ICD-10 coding and certification of mortality data by WHO, in cooperation with the EIC and several Collaborating Centres.

The EIC and WHO-FIC Network Functioning and Disability Reference Group similarly developed ICF Curriculum Modules, and Version 1 of the Modules guided development of an introductory eLearning Tool for ICF.

To support countries in the use of ICD-11, an Education Tool, with input from EIC, has been developed.

Further information and access to the ICD and ICF education tools can be located at www.hscic.kahootz.com/connect.ti/WHO_FIC_EIC/grouphome.

Recognition of Training Materials

Countries that have current training material on mortality coding may submit such materials to the EIC for evaluation against an internationally developed core curriculum.

If the materials meet the international standard for underlying cause of death coder training established by the EIC, the countries receive appropriate recognition for the materials.

Training materials from Australia, US, Korea and Sri Lanka have been recognised.

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W: www.hscic.kahootz.com/connect.ti/WHO_FIC_EIC/grouphome