

Meeting Summary
WHO Family of International Classifications Education Committee
May 11, 2005
Bethesda, Maryland

Introduction

The Education Committee of the WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network held a working meeting on May 11, 2005 in Bethesda, Maryland. The purposes of the meeting were to receive a briefing from the Joint Committee with the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (Joint WHO-FIC – IFHRO Committee), to discuss the status of various Education Committee tasks and to make plans for the 2005 WHO-FIC Network meeting. Twenty-seven persons from eleven countries, representing collaborating centers, national and international organizations, participated in the meeting, which followed two days of meetings of the Joint WHO-FIC – IFHRO Committee. A list of participants is included in Attachment 1.

Welcome & Introductions.

Marjorie Greenberg, Head of the North American Collaborating Center (NACC) and Chair of the WHO-FIC Education Committee, chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants. Tyinga Ambrose and Kathy Giannangelo agreed to serve as rapporteurs.

Review of Agenda and Meeting Objectives

The group reviewed the agenda (Attachment 2) and the objectives of the meeting, which were to:

- Receive briefing on work of Joint Committee
- Discuss development of structured, computerized training courses
- Discuss development of brochures
- Discuss status of article on Needs Assessment surveys
- Review Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for WHO-FIC website
- Review Acronyms and Abbreviations document
- Receive a presentation by Dr. Olafur Steinum on coding by physicians versus professional coders
- Discuss Presentation at upcoming Case-Mix conference
- Discuss papers for 2005 WHO-FIC Network meeting

Briefing on Joint Committee Meeting

The first face-to-face meeting of the Joint WHO-FIC-IFHRO Committee was held on May 9-10, 2005. Kathy Giannangelo reviewed the accomplishments of this meeting with input from other attendees as well. The majority of participants in the WHO-FIC Education Committee had participated in the second day of deliberations on May 10. See minutes of Joint Committee meeting for details.

Dr. Roberto Becker agreed to translate the Call for Training Materials into Spanish so that the Joint Committee can receive valuable information on training materials from countries in the PAHO region. Monica Pace mentioned that there was a problem with the distribution of this document to Italy in that they did not receive it from their regional office; fortunately she did receive it from Marjorie because she has been added to the Education Committee mailing list. The Committee recognized the difficulty of widespread distribution, beyond the Collaborating Centres, but at this time it is dependent on the regional offices to distribute to their respective country representatives.

Marjorie invited the members of the Joint Committee to become members of the Education Committee, which was accepted.

Development of structured, computerized training courses

Sue Walker, Associate Director of the Australian National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH), and the WHO representative, Andre L'Hours, presented a proposal to possibly tape an upcoming NCCH international training course and offer the essential parts from the class on the WHO website for public access. Sue had researched this option very thoroughly with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and presented cost estimates and pros and cons of various options for the Committee to consider. It was pointed out that AHIMA offers many web-based training opportunities, and Kathy Giannangelo and Margaret Skurka offered to share lessons learned and problems overcome during the implementation of those programs. Various countries shared some of their experiences in attempting to automate ICD-10 Training, and it had proven to be a very difficult task. The most successful approaches seemed to be a combination of web-based / cd-rom training paired with actual classroom time as well. Although the taping was generally felt by the group to be a potentially exciting opportunity, various issues were raised about intellectual property, maintenance, compensation, etc. It ultimately was decided that a better approach would be to include links on the WHO website to sources where ICD-10 training may already be available, such as in Australia and the United States. Sue will respond to Dr. Bedirhan Ustun, WHO, with this decision. She also will keep the Committee informed on the NCCH course and any plans by QUT to tape it for future use. An Interest/Work Group on web-based training was organized consisting of the following members:

Chair Sue Walker – Australia
Rita Scichilone - AHIMA
Kathy Giannangelo – IFHRO
Olafr Steinum – Sweden
Dr. Cassia Buchalla - Brazil
Donna Glenn – USA

This group can share experiences, offer mutual support, recommend best practices and provide advice to WHO.

Development of Brochures

The group reviewed the Education Committee brochure only briefly, because it had already been discussed more thoroughly this week at the Joint Committee meeting. Sue will incorporate the recommended changes, and it will be ready to reproduce very soon. The National Center for Health Statistics will be responsible for the first printing. Some members have agreed to translate for their countries; representatives from Brazil, Germany, Estonia, Italy and Korea all expressed interest. An electronic Word form will be sent to those individuals to facilitate translation. Several other WHO-FIC Committees also are interested in developing brochures on their work similar to the one developed by the Education Committee.

Plans for developing brochures for ICD and ICF were discussed. The ICF brochure will be based on the one Australia has created, with appropriate modifications for international use. The ICD brochure will take the information from the one developed for ICF and modify it as necessary. It will include Regional Office e-mail addresses and fax numbers. Cassia, Stefanie, and Kathy agreed to work on the ICD brochure.

Action Items:

- Sue will send the one developed for Australian use out by the end of May
- Cassia, Stefanie, and Kathy will use what Sue sends to create a draft of the ICD brochure by the end of June

Article on Needs Assessment Surveys

The Committee circulated needs assessment questionnaires world-wide in 2004, asking various questions about who does the mortality and morbidity coding in their countries, how they are trained, etc. There were 90 mortality responses and 92 morbidity responses. Sue Walker prepared a paper for the 2004 WHO-FIC Network meeting and has modified that paper slightly in response to an article in the March Issue of the WHO Bulletin (Volume 83 #3). This article criticized the quality of mortality data available, and Sue's response will emphasize the importance of well-trained coders and their need for support. She will circulate this paper to the Education Committee and request comments in about 3 weeks. It was pointed out that Lars Age Johannson of Sweden and Gerard Pavillon of France are planning to submit a letter to the editor in regards to this same article as well.

A discussion of future plans for ICD-11 followed. There is currently no timetable for the ICD-11, but this will be addressed at the WHO-FIC Network Meeting in Tokyo this fall. The 11th Revision has been delayed substantially because of the updating process. It was pointed out that the 10th Revision was approved in 1989, but a Tabular List was not available in printed form until 1994. Marjorie, working with Peter Goldblatt of the United Kingdom, is leading the international effort to assure that formal evaluations are carried out of the successes and failures of ICD-10 implementation and of the updating process to guide the revision and future implementation of the next version of ICD. There are actually various levels of implementation – no version of ICD has been implemented, an older version of ICD is in use, ICD-10 implemented without including

updates, and ICD-10 implemented with updates made on the appropriate schedule. It was noted that some countries have implemented updates prematurely, impacting on the comparability of global data. The evaluations will try to address what the barriers are to implementation as well as what facilitated implementation. A preliminary consultation to design the evaluations was held at NCHS in February. Some of the evaluation questions identified probably can be answered by persons within the WHO-FIC Network; the results of the needs assessment surveys and a WHO survey on mortality data systems will be helpful. However, site visits will need to be performed in a sample of countries without implementation. Marjorie will distribute to group members a paper describing the scope and approaches for the evaluation, which she presented at the recent meeting of the WHO-FIC Planning Committee in Bangkok, Thailand.

Items for WHO-FIC Network Website

Frequently Asked Questions

The new WHO-FIC Network website has a place for frequently asked questions (FAQ's), but currently only a few questions are posted. The Education Committee has volunteered to develop additional questions, and Marjorie and Kathy have initiated this process. Other Committees will be asked to develop their own FAQ's on their work efforts, with appropriate links to the respective committee. Marjorie will send the current file of draft questions electronically to Kathy, who will forward to the group for review and comments.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The group also reviewed a partial list of the Acronyms and Abbreviations document that the Committee had developed for the 2004 WHO-FIC Network meeting. Marjorie will email the latest version to members and request corrections and additions. The document can then be passed on to WHO for inclusion with papers for the 2005 Network meeting and on the Network website. The Education Committee should plan to update the document on an annual basis.

Presentation on Coding by Physicians

Dr. Olafur Steinum gave a short presentation, "Coding by Doctors – or by Clinical Coders". He provided perspectives on where doctors are performing coding, how a doctor's focus is different than that of a coder, and examples of how coding may differ if a doctor codes versus if done by coders. He concluded with some items for consideration. They include:

- What is "documentation"?
 - Discharge summaries/reports?
 - Medical records?
 - Including charts and lab reports?
 - Including allied health reports?
- Secondary diagnoses:
 - Shall chronic diseases always be coded?

- Need for better definitions of “other condition”
- Is this a “rich countries” problem
 - Developing countries
 - Developed countries

A number of individuals commented about their experiences with doctors coding and the type of documentation used in the coding process. There was not a consensus that doctors should not code nor that are they not very good at it. It was agreed that whoever does the coding must know the rules. Marjorie stated that part of the Committee’s terms of reference is to consider what training is needed for those who create source documents (e.g., death certificates and medical records).

Monica Pace shared information on a European project she led on the development of a generalized training package on causes of death certification. The project funded by Eurostat includes a training package consisting of a manual, a brochure and an e-learning Web site with an interactive tutorial including a death certificate where one can go to different parts of the death certificate to view and test questions. The aim was to provide a common basis to train European certifiers in the appropriate certification procedures.

It was suggested that the MRG, ICE Planning Committee and EC should plan to meet next May to talk about training for those who produce the source documents.

Action Item:

- Marjorie will talk with Lars Age Johansson and Sam Notzon about a joint meeting next May

Presentations at Case Mix Conference

Dr. Steinum gave a short presentation on the upcoming case mix conference. The Patient Classification Systems / International will be hosting their 21st Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 5-8 October 2005. The annual PCS/I Working Conference is the biggest international casemix and DRG meeting point for exchanging experiences. Olaf provided information on plans for either a workshop or plenary session on coding quality. He will be submitting a proposal to speak on coding quality issues. Kathy Giannangelo will submit an abstract on the work of the WHO-FIC Education Committee’s international training and credentialing strategy for ICD-10 coders. Chris Sweeting’s plans for a presentation on the accreditation of clinical coders in the UK will not be possible due to other commitments. Olaf encouraged others to respond to the call. The deadline for abstract submission is June 1.

2005 WHO-FIC Network Meeting

Marjorie asked for ideas for papers for the next WHO-FIC Network meeting, which will be held 16-22 October 2005 in Tokyo, Japan. She noted that are three types of papers:

background, those for discussion, and those for decision. This year the scientific papers will be presented as posters. The following topics for papers and those responsible for their development were identified:

- Annual report of the Education Committee (Marjorie Greenberg)
- Report of the Joint Committee (Sue Walker and Margaret Skurka)
- ICF in Thailand Workshop (Marjorie Greenberg with other presenters)
- Mapping terminologies and classifications (Kathy Giannangelo)

A decision was made to have a minimum of two Education Committee sessions during the meeting. One session will be focused on presenting the information on the outcome of this week's work and the other will be a joint session with the Implementation Committee on ICF. Items for the agenda for the first meeting include:

- Review status of all Committee tasks
- Review work of the three workgroups of the Joint Committee
 - Trainers
 - Practicing coders - underlying cause
 - Practicing coders – morbidity
- Formation of an Infrastructure committee to work with the draft processes and procedures that have been developed by the above workgroups
- Review status of the brochures on the Committees, ICD and ICF and other educational materials developed by the Committee.

Marjorie then thanked the participants for three full days of goodwill and hard work, and closed the meeting.

**Meetings of the Joint WHO-FIC - IFHRO Committee and
WHO-FIC Education Committee
Bethesda, MD USA
May 9-11, 2005**

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Tentative Agenda
WHO Family of International Classifications Education Committee
Working Meeting
Holiday Inn Select
Bethesda, Maryland
May 11, 2005

Wednesday, May 11

9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions Assignment of rapporteurs Review of agenda and meeting objectives	Marjorie Greenberg
9:30 a.m.	Report and discussion of meeting of Joint WHO-FIC -IFHRO Committee	Sue Walker Margaret Skurka
10:45 a.m.	Coffee break	
11:00 a.m.	Development of structured, computerized training courses	Sue Walker Andre L'Hours
11:30 a.m.	Review of brochure and plans for publication and distribution	Sue
Walker Donna Glenn		
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Status of article on Needs Assessment and related activities	Sue
Walker		
1:30 p.m.	Other Education Committee Tasks • Development of Frequently Asked Questions • Development of ICD brochure • Acronyms and Abbreviations document	Marjorie Greenberg
2:30 p.m.	Presentation on Coding by Physicians	Olafr Steinum
3:00 p.m.	Coffee break	
3:15 p.m.	Presentations at Case-Mix Conference	Olafr Steinum Kathy Giannangelo

3:45 p.m. Plans for 2005 WHO-FIC meeting

- Papers
- Agendas

Marjorie Greenberg

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

April 19, 2005