

## Training and Certification to Promote High-Quality Data

### What is the WHO-FIC Network?

The WHO Collaborating Centers for the Family of International Classifications (FIC) are an international network of expert centers 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, with focus on two WHO reference classifications, the International Statistical Classification of Diseases (ICD) and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). These Reference Classifications are used in hospitals, health and community services, statistical agencies, and for research purposes to describe the morbidity, mortality and disability of individuals and populations.

<http://www.who.int/classifications>

### What is IFHIMA?

The International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the WHO. Formerly the International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO), IFHIMA is an organization of health information management (HIM) associations in different countries, as well as individual members, that come together to advance communication and understanding among HIM professionals. Goals of IFHIMA include Data Quality, HIM Education, Advancing the Electronic Record and assisting developing nations with improving HIM practices.

[www.ifhima.org](http://www.ifhima.org)

### What is the Education and Implementation Committee?

The WHO-FIC Network established an Education Committee (EC) in 2003 as successor to an earlier Subgroup on Training and Credentialing of the Implementation Committee (IC). In 2010, the EC and IC were merged to become the Education and Implementation Committee (EIC). 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 standardized, high quality coding of health data for comparability within and among WHO Member States.

EIC activities and initiatives focus on facilitating ICD-10 and ICF implementation by supporting standardized educational materials and training and encouraging the development and sharing of best practices.

Other current WHO-FIC Network Committees and Reference Groups include: Family Development, Informatics and Terminology, and Update and Revision Committees, and Functioning and Disability and Mortality Reference Groups.

### 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 vehicle for this collaboration 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 underlying cause-of-death coding to experienced coders in several countries, who were successful in completion of pilot exams. Such certificates were awarded in Korea, Canada, the UK and the US. By mid 2008, a total of 60 certificates for underlying cause-of-death coders had been awarded. The concept of a similar program for morbidity coders is under consideration and investigation. Resources are continually being sought for further project work.

### 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, U.S., Korea and Sri Lanka have been recognized.

### Recognition of Trainers

The EIC also recognizes with appropriate certificates those experienced educators/coders who submit assessment materials and successfully complete an expanded underlying cause-of death pilot coding examination. The educators/coders who have been recognized are listed on the IFHIMA website as approved trainers of new coders. Certificates have been awarded to 19 trainers who successfully challenged the exam; seven experts from five countries who helped develop the exam also have received honorary trainer certificates.

### On-line education in ICD and ICF

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 cause-of-death by WHO, in cooperation with the EIC and several Collaborating Centres. The training tool is freely available on the WHO-FIC website (<http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10training/>) or may be downloaded after a simple registration process. Users of the training tool are assisted by an on line support group found at <http://groups.google.com/group/icd10onlinetraining> or through a Facebook site that can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/350099288373999/>

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, which can be accessed at <http://p.ideaday.de/104.2/icf/en/index.html>

The EIC is working with WHO in supporting these on-line education programs to improve knowledge of ICD-10 and ICF.

Other Information Sheets outline other classification-related topics, including clinical documentation and uses of coded data.

### Contact Information:

*WHO-FIC Education and Implementation Committee:*

Cassia Maria Buchalla ([cmbuchal@usp.br](mailto:cmbuchal@usp.br))

Sue Walker ([s.walker@qut.edu.au](mailto:s.walker@qut.edu.au))

*IFHIMA:*

Margaret A. Skurka ([miskurk@iun.edu](mailto:miskurk@iun.edu))

*WHO-FIC Network:*

Marjorie S. Greenberg ([msg1@cdc.gov](mailto:msg1@cdc.gov))

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