

WHO-Family of International Classifications-Education and Implementation Committee Annual Network Meeting Report

On 20 October 2020, WHO-Family of International Classifications-Education and Implementation Committee (WHO-FIC-EIC) met via Zoom, with over 95 participants from across the globe. IFHIMA has long been a member of this vital group (many times our members have served in a Co-Chair capacity) which intersects closely with the HIM profession, namely due to our involvement in the collection of clinical health information. WHO relies on accurate and timely reporting. The data collected is utilized not only by the regions and nations collecting the information, but by WHO to formulate a vision of population health the world over.

This article is intended to give a brief overview of some of the highlights from this meeting.

The Co-Chairs of the Committee at the time of the meeting were Vera Dimitropoulos from Australia and Sharon Baker from Canada. After years of valuable leadership to the Committee Ms. Dimitropoulos stepped down as Co-Chair, and Mr. Carlos Guevel from Argentina was acclaimed as the new Co-Chair, with Ms. Baker retaining her position for another term.

One of the focal points of discussion was the WHO Academy, a newly formed division within WHO, created to support global education for all disciplines. One of the submissions from the Classifications Division was put forth to create educational programs related to the implementation of ICD-11. Many proposals were submitted across the WHO organization, and we are most pleased that the ICD-11 course was one of the 20 approved by WHO, and is one of the 10 that are planned to be released in May 2021, at the time of the World Health Assembly.

The target audience for this program is the health coding workforce and users of coded data, including implementers and decision makers. The program will have a physical presence with an office in Lyon, France, but also rely on remote e-learning. The program will be competency based, building on knowledge transfer, and will be globally accessible, in addition to providing off-line capabilities. The specific details are currently being finalized. It will also be multilingual, offered in at least six of the WHO official languages, with the ability to be translated to others as required. The actual format will be organized into learning modules. A process will be created to measure impact based on outcomes and learning analytics, in order to provide feedback on the value and positive impact of the education offered. WHO is planning to issue certificates for students completing the program successfully, but stressed that this is only to validate that a student has complete their course, and in no way will they be credentialing or accrediting students. This will still be up to each nation's own certification/accrediting criteria. There was also discussion of countries perhaps utilizing the WHO ICD-11 WHO Academy training program as either an introduction to their own educational

system, or adopting and adapting the WHO program into their own ICD-11 educational offerings.

The program segments will be split into:

- Fundamentals – introduction to ICD-11, WHO-FIC, ICD-11 Coding and tooling environment, medical documentation and ethics, and basic medical science.
- In-depth Core Coding – mortality and morbidity, coding with ICD-11, medical certification of death and differences between ICD-10 and ICD-11
- In-depth Core Implementation Management, Analysis and Informatics – implementation management, analyzing data, integrating ICD-11, API's (Application Programming Interfaces) in software
- In-Depth Additions – patient safety and quality, functioning assessment and coding traditional medicine

IFHIMA has been pleased to assist WHO by providing input to the proposal to the WHO Academy on ICD-11 training, as well as providing input and advice surrounding the course structure and required prerequisites for students. IFHIMA members from the various membership categories were involved in responses to the WHO team, and we cannot thank you all enough for your participation!

The remainder of the meeting was most interesting, with multiple representatives from all over the globe giving updates on their plans with the ICD-11 implementation process, as well as a review of the WHO-FIC-EIC Strategic Plans for the coming years.

IFHIMA considers their NGO in official relations connection with WHO a very valuable strategic partnership, and we look forward to providing ongoing support as ICD-11 implementation continues to spread around the world!

Please access the WHO website for further information and details related to this topic.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pE_Mai4A9U

Respectfully submitted,

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