

WHO Introduction to ICD-11 Webinar 9 November 2020

WHO is now offering educational webinars on ICD-11. I had the pleasure of attending the first one, and recommend other interested parties consider doing the same, as WHO will be offering a series of webinars over the next several weeks.

In addition to the Introduction of ICD-11, there are three areas of focus:

- IT integration
- Implementation and exercises
- Examples included to aid coding professionals

Of note, did you realize that approximately 70% of the world's health expenditures are based on ICD coding? HIM's are very important, and provide the foundation to a great deal of decision making! The below link provides further documentation related to this 70% statistic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/ICDInformationSheet.pdf>.

This additional link below, gives a good overview of the importance of collecting data through coding, on a global scale:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZFcoYfnwiM>

Some notable facts related to ICD-11 containing more relevant coding detail:

- 17,000 categories
- 80,000 entries
- 120,000 terms
- 1,600,000 terms recognized

ICD-11 therefore has more detail and specificity than ICD-10. Of note, there are specific enhancements in the coding related to HIV stages, definition of sepsis, subtypes of melanoma, pulmonary hypertension, MI - STEMI and non-STEMI, male fertility, code combinations, land transport accidents (high versus low traffic flows) and traditional medicine. More recent examples of new additions to the coding nomenclature are COVID-19, diseases related to gaming and expansion of allergies, to name a few. Overall, this is seen as a 21st century classification system, with intuitive user guidance, embeddable terms, and can be accessed offline and online. You can download and print a paper copy – BUT – there really is no need!

A demo was given, and it really is simple to use. The diagnosis is typed in and choices appear. And – it truly is multilingual. A “globe” appears on the top right of each screen, and by clicking on this, you can select whatever language you prefer from a comprehensive listing displayed – with the screen immediately appearing in the language of your choice.

The presenters also explained that should the need arise to add new codes, a transparent public process is in place. A request for new coding can be submitted and

thereafter vetted by WHO medical scientific teams – who will determine the requirement of new codes.

On 1 January 2022, ICD-11 officially will come into effect, with each country deciding when they would like to implement ICD-11 for mortality and morbidity coding and reporting.

Some questions were posed concerning country modifications, and frankly, I agree with WHO in that the system is so dynamic, there really does not appear to be a compelling reason to create a country specific modification. If a nation feels this is necessary, WHO is committed to working with them to cover any issues they may have within the existing algorithms.

Other notables – within 2 months it is anticipated ICHI (International Classification of Health Interventions) will be available for review. Also, ICD-O (oncology) has been integrated into the ICD-11 Oncology/Tumour chapter. Personally, I think a good call!

Overall, I was impressed by the demo. It appears to be a fairly simple implementation, will definitely result in more specific coding and better content and is multilingual. Having lived through ICD-9 to ICD-10, I think the majority of practitioners will find this transition much easier.

Please feel free to access the WHO ICD-11 video referencing Questions and Answers related to ICD-11:

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

Respectfully submitted,

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