

2021 WHO-FIC Annual Meeting

Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG)

October 18-22

For my last time, I attended via Zoom, the Annual Meetings of the Education and Implementation Committee and Morbidity Reference Group. Mary Stanfill, with deep knowledge of the HIM profession, will replace me on both committees. I've held the IFHIMA seat (which includes voice and vote thanks to our NGO status with WHO) since 2005, and knew that it would be a great and interesting opportunity. I'm moving toward retirement in some areas of my consulting work, hence my resignation earlier this year.

The Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG) had an ambitious agenda that included a progress update on four issues—

1. Joint Use of ICD-11 and ICHI, the International Classification of Health Interventions: a case mix tool
2. An Information Sharing forum for the MbRG and the EIC (the Education and Implementation Committee)
3. The ICD-11 Quality and Safety work that includes the Quality and Safety TAG indicator work as well as the 3-part harm model—which includes an education package for coders
4. ICHI mapping paper

Time was also devoted to a status update of the ICD-11 Descriptions Maintenance.

The later part of the agenda included

1. Cancer Registration Discussion
2. Review of Rare Disease and coding
3. The ICD-11 Foundation—including clinical terminology
4. Discussion of the ICD-11 Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Guidelines
5. A look forward at the mid-year meeting, also remote
6. The strategic work plan for 2022.

There is hope that the 2022 Annual Meeting can be held in person, after now two years of all remote meetings.

General comments:

Most countries in Europe do have active cancer registries.

In terms of ICD-11 Description Maintenance, it was noted that descriptions are not for all items, some are more extensive in nature and others very short and simple. Discussion followed on whether ICD-11 Descriptions are important for Morbidity coding, and the group recognized that there is a need to define a framework for description maintenance.

There was a report of the status of rare disease and coding of same and on Clinical Descriptions and Diagnosis Guidelines. Finally, the MbRG Mid-Year meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd-6th.

Functioning and disability Reference Group (FDRG) could be scheduled for May 2-3, with EIC on May 4th, and the MbRG on May 5-6th.

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Member of the MbRG representing IFHIMA