



WHO Family of International Classifications (FIC)

The WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) in the Netherlands

WHO-FIC: the Family of International Classifications of WHO

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There are several international classifications in the area of health and health care. The oldest example is ICD, the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. At present the tenth revision (ICD-10 Second edition) is the prevailing version. This classification is used for the registration of causes of death. It is also used for the registration of morbidity and for diagnostic purposes. A more recent member of the family is ICF, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. At the moment the feasibility and usefulness of ICHI, an International Classification of Health Interventions (for procedures in health care) is explored. These three classifications are the core, the reference classifications, within the family.

Additionally, there are derived and related family members. Derived classifications are ICD-O-3 (for oncology), ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders (for psychiatry), and ICF-CY (ICF for Children and Youth).

Related classifications are ICPC-2 (International Classification for Primary Care), ICECI (International Classification of External Causes of Injury), ISO9999 (Classification and terminology of Assistive products for persons with disability), and ATC/DDD (Anatomic, Therapeutic, Chemical classification with Defined Daily Dosages).

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RELATED Classifications	REFERENCE Classifications	DERIVED Classifications
International Classification of Primary Care-2 (ICPC)*	International Classification of Diseases*	International Classification of Diseases for Oncology , Third Edition (ICD-O-3)*
International Classification of External Causes of Injury (ICECI)		The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders*
International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP)	International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health*	ICF, Children & Youth Version (ICF -CY)*
ISO 9999 Assistive products for persons with disabilities – Classification and Terminology – *		Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Dentistry and Stomatology, Third Edition (ICD-DA)
The Anatomical, Therapeutic, Chemical (ATC) classification system with Defined Daily Doses (DDD)	International Classification of Health Interventions (under exploration)	Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Neurology (ICD-10-NA)

*translated into Dutch

WHO-FIC Network

The activities, concerning the members of this family of classifications, regard primarily the concerted development of classifications, but also the management, maintenance, implementation, training, update and revision. The WHO-FIC network, executing these tasks, consists of several international players, such as: WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres (12 at present, scattered all over the world), WHO Regional Offices and a team of WHO Head Quarters in Geneva. The network convenes annual meetings and operates with committees and reference groups, communicating and working via e-mail and conference calls throughout the year.

WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the Netherlands

One of the first by WHO designated Collaborating Centers is the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the Netherlands. WHO acknowledged already in 1989 the activities on international classifications in the Netherlands with approval of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports. The Centre has been subsumed since 1998 under the Department for Public Health Forecasting of the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). A budget from the Ministry should guarantee its continuity.

The Centre tasks concern promotion of WHO-FIC members, study of classification aspects, measurement tools and methodology, and activities within the WHO-FIC network.

Nationally this means in particular providing information and advice on the use of international classifications and possible applications. The Centre fulfills a special WHO derived task in functioning as the managing agent for WHO classifications in the Dutch language. The use of these classifications is managed by the Centre through either commercial or non-commercial licensing. The use by Governmental Organizations is regarded to be a non-commercial one.

Complementary to the small Centre team, expert teams for the distinguished classifications are active. The team itself participates in several international committees and reference groups for the protection of and contribution of classification users in the Netherlands.

For the collection and dissemination of information on WHO-FIC members, the Centre has a frequently updated website. Twice a year an English newsletter is published and distributed. This free newsletter can also be downloaded from the website. The current versions of the translated classifications can be viewed online for free.