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World Organization of Family Doctors

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PRIMARY CARE VERSION 2 (ICPC-2)

Produced by the
Wonca International
Classification Committee
(WICC)

The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC)

The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) broke new ground in the world of classification when Wonca, the World Organisation of Family Doctors, first published it in book form in 1987. For the first time health care providers could classify, using a single classification, three important elements of the health care encounter: reasons for encounter (RFE) in the patient's view, assessment (diagnoses or problems) labelled in the health care provider's perspective, and process of care (decision, action, or plans). Linkage of elements permits categorisation from the beginning of the encounter with RFE to its conclusion, as well as a dynamic arrangement of encounters into episodes.

Because it reflects the essential elements of each patient/provider encounter, and allows for the description of episodes of care, ICPC is fully compatible with, and fully supports the use of problem-oriented clinical records.

Since publication ICPC has gradually received increasing world recognition as an appropriate and comprehensive classification for general/family practice and primary care, and has been used extensively in some parts of the world, notably in Europe and Australia. WHO has accepted ICPC into the WHO Family of International Classifications as a related classification to be used for health information recording in primary care.

ICPC has always been linked with the widely recognised and used International Classification of Diseases published by the World Health Organization. ICPC-2 has been carefully mapped to ICD-10 so that conversion systems can be used.

Initially published in English (the working language of the Committee), ICPC-2 has been translated into:

Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish.

The ICPC-2 book can be obtained from Oxford University Press (as a "print on demand" copy) or through a bookshop or web retailer such as amazon.com. Pending publication of a revised edition of the ICPC-2 book, an electronic version of a corrected Chapter 10 (tabular list) is available at: <http://fampra.oupjournals.org/cgi/content/full/17/2/101/DC1>

If ICPC-2 is not already translated into your language and you wish to translate it, please contact WICC through Dr. Inge Okkes: i.m.okkes@amc.uva.nl

ICPC-2-E is the electronic version of ICPC-2 and can be used by family doctors in their electronic medical records. Individual family doctors and electronic medical record system developers should initially contact the WICC member in their region for information regarding licence arrangements (see back of brochure).

If formal arrangements are required you may be referred to Wonca's CEO Dr. Alfred Loh to obtain a licence. email: ceo@wonca.com.sg

ICPC Structure

ICPC has a biaxial structure with 17 **chapters** on one axis and seven **components** on the other.

Chapters are based on body systems with an additional chapter for psychological problems and one for social problems. Each chapter is identified by a single alpha code which is the first character of all rubrics belonging to that chapter.

Each chapter is divided into seven **components**, identified by a range of two digit numeric codes, which are, where possible, uniform across chapters.

Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC)

WICC is the committee in Wonca responsible for ICPC. It has been active since 1972. It has 40 members from 23 different countries.

The aim of WICC is to:

"Develop, update and distribute systems which enable international communication about the work with patients in general/family practice."

The two most important tasks are development and translation of the International Classification for Primary Care and the Wonca Dictionary of General/Family Practice.

Further information about ICPC-2 can be found at WICC's website: www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com/wicc

Copies of the Wonca Dictionary can be obtained from: www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com/publications

Further information about WICC can be obtained from the Chairman:

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