



The University of Sydney



Using WHO-FIC in Primary Care

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What is Primary Care?

Primary health care is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation. ...

It is the first level of contact of individuals, the family and community with the national health system bringing health care as close as possible to where people live and work, and constitutes the first element of a continuing health care process

Source: Alma Ata Declaration 1978



Episode of Care

- An 'episode' covers the care of a problem (s) or diseases (s) from beginning to end
- An episode may include many 'encounters'

Source: International Classification of Primary Care, 2nd edition



Classifying an episode of illness (chronic disease)

**Initial
Medical
Encounter**



**Subsequent
Medical
Encounter**



**Subsequent
Medical
Encounter**





International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC)

Designed to classify an episode of primary care, and each encounter

Three elements are classified:

- Reason for encounter (RFE): Patient's description
 - Diagnostic labels (includes Presenting Problem)
 - Primary care interventions
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WHO-FIC in Primary Care

Other WHO-FIC classifications are not designed for use in primary care

But several classifications can do part of the work



Reason for encounter

Patient's description of the problem

- ICD classifies Symptoms and Reasons for Encounter (Ch 18 and 21); generally uses the words of a clinician
 - ICF contains some relevant terms, especially in Body Functions and Activities and Participation
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Presenting Problem

**Clinician's description of the problem:
‘Presenting Problem’**

- ICD Ch 18 and 21 use the terms of a clinician, but not designed for primary care
 - ICF contains some relevant terms, especially in Body Functions and Activities and Participation
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ICPC: Reason for Encounter/ Presenting Problem

- Neither ICD or ICF are fit for purpose
 - ICPC is designed to classify
 - Reason for Encounter
 - Presenting Problem
-



Diagnostic Labels: ICD-10

- ICD classifies diseases, disorders
 - ICPC does too
 - ICPC contains maps to and from ICD-10
 - Sweden developed ICD-PC, a condensed version of ICD
 - ICPC should 'open' ICD for disease labels
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Primary Care in ICD-11

- Revision plan includes a 'Primary Care Usecase'
 - Primary care version for diseases, disorders
 - Should it include RFE?
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Diagnostic Labels: ICF

ICF classifies

- Impairments of body functions
- Activity limitations
- Participation restrictions

ICPC should 'open' ICF for functioning and disability labels



Primary Care Interventions

- ICPC classifies these, including attendance, observation
- ICHI is planned to include primary care interventions, but not attendance, observation

ICPC should

- contain common primary care interventions
 - 'open' ICHI for interventions
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Medicines

- ATC is a WHO-FIC related classification
 - ICPC already suggests the use of ATC to record medicines prescribed
 - ICPC 'opens' ATC
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Episode v Encounter

- At each encounter, RFE, diagnostic label and interventions should be classified
 - Throughout the episode, diagnostic labels need to be refined and retained; ICD and ICF should be fit for this purpose
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Classifying an episode of illness (chronic disease)

**Initial
Medical
Encounter**



ICPC
ICD
ICF
ICHI
ATC

**Subsequent
Medical
Encounter**



ICPC
ICD
ICF
ICHI
ATC

**Subsequent
Medical
Encounter**



ICPC
ICD
ICF
ICHI
ATC



ICD
ICF



Conclusion

- Primary care can be described using several WHO-FIC classifications
 - ICPC can serve across an episode of care
 - ICPC can be the key to many other WHO-FIC classifications fit for purpose
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