

ICD-11 Mortality and Morbidity Statistics (MMS) Joint Task Force: Progress Report

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The International Classification of Diseases, Eleventh Revision for mortality and morbidity statistics (ICD-11 MMS) was released for World Health Organization (WHO) Member State comment at the ICD-11 Revision Conference in Tokyo on 12 October 2016. The work on finalising the classification continues towards endorsement by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in July 2018. It should be noted that a classification is never final and will always require updates given that medicine is a continuously evolving science. Focused field trials of the ICD-11 MMS, through some World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) collaborating centres have occurred in the latter half of 2016 and more extensive and specialised field trials will continue in 2017. Feedback from these field trials will help improve ICD-11 to ensure it is fit for purpose.

It is hoped that ICD-11 will be implemented as the standard classification for international use (and comparison) in the future for mortality and morbidity coding and reporting.

ICD-11 MMS Joint Task Force (JTF) was formed during the latter stages of the ICD-11 development cycle and has been the steering group for ICD-11 MMS providing strategic and technical advice to WHO for the finalisation of the classification's development. Input to the classification has drawn on scientific advice, where recommended by the JTF or WHO. The JTF is time limited during the final phases of the development cycle leading to 2018.

WHO acknowledges that ICD-11 should have a sustainable process model implemented for the delivery of quality classification products. A sustainable process model will ensure that ICD-11 can effectively provide information as the international standard for statistical purposes in public health, and serve as a specialised classification for clinical and related data reporting requirements.

The most recent meeting of the JTF was held in Cologne in February 2017 where the focus was on strategies to achieve the longer term goals for ICD, especially during transition. WHO is restructuring the present ICD Revision advisory arrangements towards a longer term maintenance framework.

Other significant discussion topics at the February 2017 meeting included:

- Discussion of Member State Feedback received to date
- Finalising sections of ICD-11-MMS content
- Improvements to the ICD-11 Reference Guide
- Finalising Quality Assurance mechanisms and plans
- Planning for the 2018 Release of the ICD-11-MMS
- Development of a transition plan for moving to ICD-11 Maintenance

The JTF will continue its advisory role to WHO until such time as the new WHO governance arrangements for maintenance of the ICD-11 MMS are put into place.