ICD-11 EIC Work at the WHO-FIC meeting

Seoul, South Korea

October 22-26, 2018

The Annual Network meeting of the WHO-FIC (Family of International Classification) was held in October this year in Seoul , South Korea. Vera Dimitropoulos , Carol Lewis, Joon Hong, Yukiko Yokobori, Sue Walker, myself, and others were strong representatives of IFHIMA throughout the Congress.

ICD-11 was a significant topic. Robert Jakob of the WHO indicated that ICD-11 has been released as of June 2018 and will officially be available for adoption by June 2019. Go to icd.who.int for current information on implementation.   Final changes in the publication were being made during the meeting, however, the vast majority of the work is basically done. Traditional Medicine is included.

The workplan of the EIC (Education and Implementation Committee) includes work on the Implementation Database, training tools for ICD-11 and for ICF (International Classification of Functioning) and the reorganization of the Strategic Work Plan.   Future work according to Dr. Olafr Steinum of the Nordic Collaborating Center, is on the Reference Guide, the Coding Rules for Morbidity, and continuing efforts on always problematic conditions such as sepsis, chronic post procedural conditions, rule out conditions , and personal history of conditions.

Electronic testing of the coding system is underway and will continue into 2019, and after the release in June. ICD-11 will be known for its functionality, and will allow for faster, easier, and more accurate coding.

A translation of ICD-11 into various languages needs to take place. These will include Spanish, Arabic, Russian, French, Japanese, German and more.   Implementation plans for ICD-11 need to be developed in countries that include a national, regional and global approach. ICD-11 is designed to be electronic and whether there will be traditional books is unknown. Certainly, training tools will be built to be on line with self-evaluation exercises included.

When countries will adopt is unknown, but the earliest adopters, per the discussion in Seoul, will probably be in 2022-24. The ICD-11 Implementation package will need to be complete, and include various tools, the Reference Guide, Transition Tables, and advocacy materials. A tool called ICD-FIT has been developed. It is a Web-based data entry tool for supporting the implementation of ICD-11 field trials and will be a self-evaluation tool that will give direct feedback to the coder. WHO member states will be able to check translations and data quality and countries in the future will be given access to this tool.

After many years of work, the system is just about ready for its official debut internationally. Exciting times for those of us in the Health Information Management profession world -wide.

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