



Australian Collaborating Centre for the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications

Health Classifications Update #8 — July 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW's) 8th Health Classifications Update.

This update includes news on the continuing work to understand the costs and benefits of, and likely path for, implementing ICD-11 in various use cases. The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) has started its work to consider the replacement of ICD-10-AM with ICD-11, with a framework settled and work beginning on the business case. The Australian ICD-11 Task Force (AITF) will now deliver its work to health chief executives in the second half of 2026 to allow for IHACPA's work to be included in that. We have continued engaging with other countries that are also embarking on the ICD-11 implementation journey – the questions and issues we are all facing are similar, even where our systems are different, so sharing knowledge during this period will be crucial.

Also since the last update, the World Health Organisation Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network mid-year meetings were held in Kigali, Rwanda. Members of the Australian Collaborating Centre (ACC) attended online and took particular interest in work on a primary care use case for ICD-11 and on the supports being developed for the potential use of national 'linearisations' of ICD-11.

WHO recently released a new version of its automated coding tool [CodeFusion](#) which the ACC and the WHO-FIC Informatics and Terminologies Committee (ITC) User Group are now reviewing.

Preparations continue for the Annual Meetings in Geneva in October, including consideration of proposals to amend ICD-11 that will be voted on, as well as ongoing discussions on 'linearisations', primary care, and the improvement of WHO-FIC Network processes.



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The Australian ICD-11 Task Force

The AITF was formed by the Australian Health Classifications Advisory Committee (AHCAC) in 2022 to develop a broad, multi-year Roadmap of tasks required to **inform a decision on the implementation of ICD-11 in Australia** across a range of use cases. The AITF has recently reviewed its Roadmap of tasks required to ensure only tasks required to make a decision on ICD-11 adoption in Australia are prioritised. The timeline for the completion of all tasks has been extended until June 2026.

A business case to governments regarding adoption of ICD-11 in Australia will also incorporate the findings of the IHACPA business case, due for completion June 2026, so will be finalised after this.

Membership of the AITF currently includes representatives from each of the states and territories, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), IHACPA, the Australian Digital Health Agency, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control.

Tasks for 2025

A dedicated Project Officer has been engaged to manage the project. Work continues on the AITF Roadmap tasks, including:

- ICD-11 cost and benefit analysis
- evaluating broader IT system enhancements required to support ICD-11
- mapping between ICD-11 to classifications and terminologies used across the Australian health care system
- comparative analysis studies
- trialling the use of ICD-11 in new data sets, such as General Practice data
- identifying and assessing the impacts on IT systems and infrastructure
- workforce assessment.



ACC International Engagement

The ACC engages regularly with other WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres to share implementation planning experiences and learnings.

In the first half of this year, we have met with Canada, France and the UK, with plans for other countries including Sweden and the Netherlands in the coming months.

Canada is working towards establishing an ICD-11 Task Force and continue the journey of verifying mapping done between ICD-10-CA and ICD-11.

France has translated both ICD-11 and the Reference Guide into French and is beginning dual coding in several hospitals which will continue over the next year or so (till 2027). France expects the transition to implementation for mortality to occur in 2027, and transition for admitted care to occur across 2028–2031. France is also exploring using artificial intelligence (AI) for automated coding, with over 5000 real life scenarios being used to test AI tools.

The UK has developed a draft business case for the implementation of ICD-11 and engaged a health economist to do a cost-benefit analysis.

Australia will continue to engage with other countries as we learn of their progression in ICD-11 implementation and data usage.

ACC Network

The ACC Network meeting was held on 9 July 2025.

Agenda items included updates on the activities of the ACC Steering Committee, the Australian ICD-11 Task Force and WHO-FIC Network updates.

There were also presentations from:

- the ABS on mortality data and the progress towards implementation of ICD-11 for cause of death coding
- IHACPA on Activity Based Funding (ABF) (that is, Thirteenth Edition of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS and other classifications used for ABF) and IHACPA's ICD-11 activities with regard to ABF functions
- Professor Richard Madden (University of Sydney) on Primary Care and ICD-11
- the AIHW on the Draft Health System Performance Assessment Framework.

There was also a verbal update from the co-chairs of the ICF Australian Interest Group about their activities in 2025.

The next ACC Network Meeting will be held on 2 December 2025.

IHACPA Activities

Framework for a decision to implement ICD-11

In 2024 IHACPA developed a framework of steps on a pathway that leads to a decision to implement ICD-11 as a replacement for ICD-10-AM. It includes work in progress alongside other steps considered necessary for a future implementation. Key achievements to date include:

ICD-11 maturity assessment

- **ICD-10-AM to ICD-11 mapping project** – well advanced with gold standard maps due for completion by the end of 2025 or early 2026.

ICD-11 classification architecture

- **Cluster coding** – implemented on 1 July 2025 as part of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Thirteenth Edition.
- **Data management and reporting** – new project added to framework.
- **Australian ICD-11 linearization** – engaging within the WHO-FIC Network to determine its necessity and feasibility. Will be further discussed at the WHO-FIC Annual Meeting in October 2025.
- **Classification modernisation project** – project brief developed to modernise the development and outputs of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS that will also facilitate a seamless transition to ICD-11.

ICD-11 stakeholder engagement and governance

- **Transition to ICD-11** – Consultation on 'The future of IHACPA's classifications – work program and governance framework' is planned for October/November 2025 and will include a proposal to minimise ICD-10-AM updates.
- **Business case for ICD-11 to replace ICD-10-AM** – development of this business case is progressing with a literature review and stakeholder engagement plan currently being developed. Preliminary work has also been conducted on a cost benefit analysis.



Framework for a decision to implement ICD-11

ICD-11 maturity assessment	ICD-11 classification architecture	ICD-11 stakeholder engagement and governance
<p>ICD-10-AM to ICD-11 mapping project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess mapping outcomes • determine gold standard maps • submit proposals on the ICD-11 maintenance platform 	<p>Cluster coding in ICD-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation • national uptake • expansion <p>Data management and reporting</p> <p>Develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICD-11 data reporting and analytic model 	<p>Transition to ICD-11</p> <p>Limit updates to ICD-10-AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation on ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS, Fourteenth Edition work program
<p>ICD-11 impact assessment on existing classifications</p> <p>Assess impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR-DRGs • other activity based funding classifications 	<p>Australian ICD-11 linearization</p> <p>Determine in collaboration with WHO and outcomes of ICD-11 maturity assessment</p>	<p>WHO-FIC engagement and leadership</p> <p>Broaden engagement and leadership within the WHO-FIC network</p>
<p>ICD-11 fundamental review</p> <p>Assess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chapters/extension codes against framework for evaluating statistical classifications • Reference Guide against Australian Coding Standards • submit proposals on the ICD-11 maintenance platform 	<p>Classification modernisation (ClAM) project</p> <p>Redevelop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICD Toolkit/Australian Classification Exchange (ACE) platforms <p>Develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coding tool for national linearization (potential AI use) • certification for other coding software (potential AI use) 	<p>Business case for ICD-11 to replace ICD-10-AM</p> <p>Develop a business case for ICD-11 to replace ICD-10-AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage with stakeholders to conduct a cost benefit analysis • confirm a date for implementation and the steps required in an implementation pathway • document the risks and risk mitigation strategy for an ICD-11 implementation • confirm the governance framework for a decision to implement ICD-11
<p>ICD-11 implementation decision to replace ICD-10-AM</p>		

For further information on IHACPA's ICD-11 activities please see the [ICD-11 webpage](#) on the IHACPA website.

ICF Australian Interest Group (ICF-AIG)

The ICF-AIG is a collaborative, multidisciplinary group of people who have diverse expertise in data development, the ICF and its uses. Some updates on the group's activities include:

- A small group of ICF-AIG members wrote a paper in February 2025 on 'Using ICF to develop National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) functioning and support needs assessments' which was sparked by discussion at the December meeting about changes to the NDIS Act made by 'Bill no. 1' (in particular, the introduction of 'impairment notices'). This paper was sent to several senior executives in the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and Department of Social Services. The paper proposed specific ways ICF can be used in the context of current reforms to NDIS access and budget setting processes.
- The first ICF-AIG meeting for 2025 was held in April. The agenda covered updates and discussion on WHO-FIC Network ICF activities, including ICF-2025, work to develop ICF index terms, and harmonisation across the three WHO-FIC Reference Classifications. There were presentations on the use of AI to improve ICF-based rehabilitation management tools and for identifying synonyms to enhance the ICF index.
- In June, the NDIA released an Approach to Market to find a supplier to map activities listed as part of Scheme access criteria in the NDIS Act to the ICF.
- The next ICF-AIG meeting will be on 2 October 2025.

If you would like to find out more about the ICF-AIG please contact shs.icf@sydney.edu.au.



Did you know?

Classifications and Terminologies – how can they work together?

The Australian health system has both terminologies, classifications and other code sets in use to address many use cases.

A **terminology** is a set of concepts about a certain domain that shows properties of and relationships between these concepts, which are organised by meaning. They are often used as an 'input language' **to support data capture at the point of care**.

Examples of terminologies are SNOMED CT-AU (the Australian extension of SNOMED CT) and the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT).

A **classification** organises concepts into categories or groups based on common characteristics, enabling consistent statistical data analysis. That is, they are used as an 'output language' **to support analysis of data and production of statistics**.

Examples of classifications are the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI), the International Classification of Primary Care, Version 2 (ICPC2+) and the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC).

Other code sets can be used to enable standardisation and interoperability between systems; or be a listing (or schedule) of health care services or medication (such as the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS)) to support healthcare system management.

The below diagram shows how the Australian health sector uses both terminologies and classifications to play important and complimentary roles.

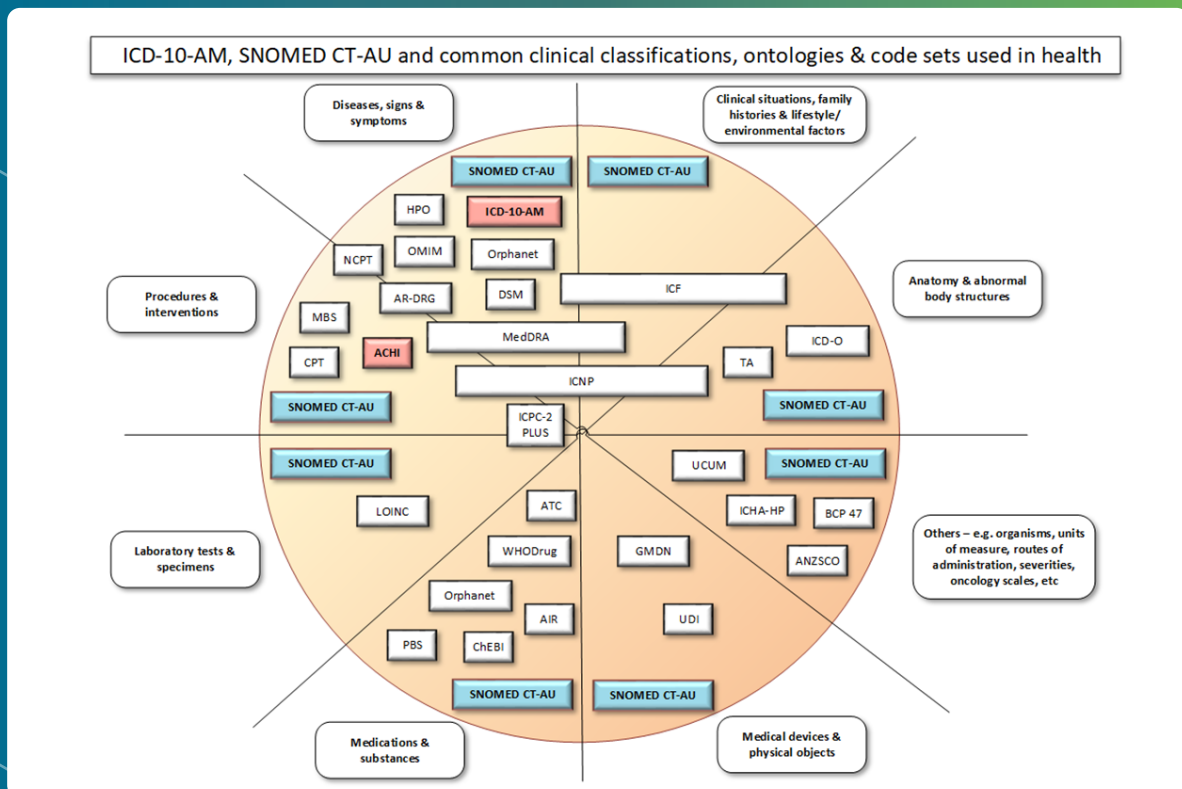


Diagram Ref: [Australian Digital Health Agency](#)

WHO-FIC Network Update

About the WHO-FIC Network

The WHO-FIC Network consists of 18 Family of International Classifications Collaborating Centres (CCs), 5 Classification Scientific Support/Classification, Terminology and Standards CCs, 2 CCs for Verbal Autopsy, 10 non-government organisations in official relations with WHO, several country focal points and other technical experts.

Australia has extensive active participation in the WHO-FIC Network Committees and Reference Groups (CRGs), and the AIHW (as the Australian WHO-FIC CC) extends its thanks to its members from a range of national stakeholders, such as the ABS, AIHW, IHACPA, various universities and others, for their past, present, and future involvement and shared expertise.

Engagement with the WHO-FIC Network is important to maximise the utility and benefit of the WHO Reference Classifications, in particular ICD-11, for Australia by promoting early influence and strategic preparation to ensure that Australia's use cases and unique requirements are considered in the development, implementation, and ongoing updates to the Reference Classifications.

WHO-FIC Network 2025 Mid-Year Meetings

WHO-FIC Network CRGs mid-year meetings were held from March to June, starting with hybrid meetings based in Kigali, Rwanda the Mortality Reference Group (MRG) and the Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee ICD (CSAC-ICD) March 31 to April 4. Most other CRGs met virtually across April, May and June.

Key topics were tabled for each of the Reference Classifications, some of which are mentioned in the classification sections above. Additional activities include:

- Work continued in the Family Development Committee on content alignment and harmonisation, and the Primary Care Working Group
- The Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) are updating sections of the *Implementation or Transition Guide* with small writing groups for Dual Coding, Crosswalks (mapping) and Translations, as well as seeking more coding scenarios to improve the content of ICD-FiT (ICD Field Implementation Tool)
- ITC are forming a CodeFusion user group to test and demonstrate the capabilities of this automated coding tool, and reviewing WHO tools and technological developments
- The Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG) continues to review ICD-11 content using coding exercises for obstetrics and injuries, as well as the national linearisation working group
- MRG continues to focus on key implementation issues for ICD-11, including use of extension codes, coding conventions, syntax and data storage/use.

WHO-FIC Network 2025 Annual Meetings

The 2025 Annual Meetings will be held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, October 13-18. These meetings are held in-person to progress the work on developing the Reference Classifications and to provide opportunities for collaboration between all of the CRGs.



International Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD) Updates

The 2025 release of the ICD Browser and Coding Tool is available in thirteen languages besides English (Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, Kazakh, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Uzbek).

The CSAC-ICD Voting Round 1 was completed in June with a review of 120 ICD-11 proposals, and 50 ICD-11 Reference Guide proposals. Round 2 is open until August with 75 ICD-11 proposals and 25 Reference Guide proposals for review.



ICD-11

Recent ICD-11 resources

Journal Articles

ICD-11 Content

- [Advancing cancer data collection: ICD-11 implementation in European oncology and cancer registries](#)
- [Definitions, terminology and standards for reporting of births and deaths in the perinatal period: International Classification of Diseases \(ICD-11\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Orthopedic and Traumatology Diseases According to the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases](#)
- [ICD-11 PTSD, Complex PTSD, and Substance Use Disorder: Associations and Clinical Correlates](#)
- [A Comprehensive Evaluation of the International Classification of Diseases, Eleventh Revision Behavioural Indicators for Disorders of Intellectual Development](#)
- [One Health Practice by Harmonizing and Adopting the International Classification of Diseases-11](#)
- [Suicidality and self-harm](#)
- [A Trans and Queer Discursive Approach to Gender Diversity and Misgendering in the Transgender and Gender Diverse Population: Queering a Study for ICD-11](#)
- [Stroke Incidence, Case Fatality, and Mortality Using the WHO International Classification of Diseases 11](#)

Digitalisation / ICT Infrastructure

- [International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems \(ICD-11\): from its origin to its use in digital systems](#)
- [The Digital Future of WHO Classifications](#)
- [Clinical and Medical Coding: A New Pathway for Automation – An Updated Review](#)
- [Innovations of ICD-11](#)
- [Design and Implementation of a Scalable Clinical Data Warehouse for Resource-Constrained Healthcare Systems](#)

Implementation experiences

- [Preparing for ICD-11: Exploring the Current Use of ICD-10 in Dutch Hospital Mortality and Morbidity Coding](#)
- [Mortality coding with ICD-11 in Chile: main results and prospects for implementation](#)
- [Challenges, Benefits and Considerations of Transitioning Disease Classification and Codification to ICD-11](#)



- [Implications of ICD-11 for the German healthcare system](#)
- [An examination of ambulatory care code specificity utilization in ICD-10-CM compared to ICD-9-CM: implications for ICD-11 implementation](#)
- [Preparation for the Implementation of the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision: A Survey on Clinical Coders' Knowledge of the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision, Educational Needs, and Readiness to Accept New Roles: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)
- [Areas of overlap and harmonization approaches in the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications Foundation](#)
- [A Korean field trial of ICD-11 classification under practical clinical coding rules to clarify the reasons for inconsistencies](#)

For more information about ICD visit the [WHO's ICD home page](#).

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Updates

The 2025 release of the ICF Browser and Coding Tool is available in five languages besides English (Chinese, Czech, French, Spanish, Turkish). Substantive work has been undertaken in an additional seven languages with more than 90% completion, and another four languages in development.



The Functioning and Disability Reference Group has continued the development of an ICF Reference Guide.

ICF update proposals have been reviewed by the CSAC secretariat with most being able to be done via Technical Trust (i.e. adding synonyms or fixing typographical errors). A small number will come to CSAC-ICF later this year for voting that are outside Technical Trust (i.e. content amendments and inclusions).

For more information about ICF visit the [WHO's ICF home page](#).

International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) Updates

The Health Interventions Reference Group have been working on identifying key tasks to undertake and timelines for those.



This includes updating of previously released education materials which require extensive update after the move of the ICHI content to the WHO-FIC platform. A working group was established to work towards emulating the ICD-11 materials available and using the standard EIC templates for consistency in WHO-FIC education materials.

There has also been work with the MbRG to produce a paper 'WHO-FIC MbRG: Applying a standard approach when mapping national intervention classifications to ICHI' which has yet to be published and could be used as a base for further development of a standard approach to mapping, such as those done for the Nordic intervention classification (NCSP+) maps to ICHI, which are also being used to progress the development of a WHO Diagnoses Related Groups Grouping using ICD-11 and ICHI.

For more information about ICHI visit the [WHO's ICHI home page](#).

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Event type
October	WHO-FIC 2025 Annual Meetings	Switzerland	Meetings
October	Australasian College of Health Service Management	Darwin	Conference
October	Health Information Management Association of Australia Conference 2025	Canberra	Conference



Contact Us

The Pacific Health Information and Classification Support Unit at the AIHW is the contact point for all Australian enquiries relating to the WHO-FIC Network, the ACC and activities relating to ICD-11 implementation in Australia.

Email us at who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au.

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Stronger evidence,
better decisions,
improved health and welfare