



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

Health Classifications Update #7 — January 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW's) 7th Health Classifications Update.

In our last update, I foreshadowed that this one would likely focus on the then upcoming World Health Organization Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC) Network annual meetings in Kigali, Rwanda. Unfortunately, those meetings were relocated and held in a reduced format at the WHO offices in Geneva, owing to an outbreak of Marburg virus in Rwanda at the time. Fortunately, the Network was still able to get a lot of work done in these meetings through the WHO's ability to host us at short notice. Key things for us were:

- agreement on and adoption of the revised Conduct of the Network Paper that we had proposed
- discussion about the requirements that will apply to 'national linearisations' of ICD-11
- committee and reference group co-chair elections—congratulations to Filippa Pretty on being elected co-chair of the Education and Implementation Committee
- the formation of the Health Interventions Reference Group, which Australia will provide the secretariat for (thank you Nicole Rankin and the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA))
- the development of the ICF Reference Guide
- and of course, the consideration of a large number of proposals to amend the classifications!

In other news, we were successful in our bid to get funding from the Health Chief Executive's Forum to support the engagement of a project officer to drive our work to inform a decision on ICD-11 implementation and are in the process of engaging someone to do that work. A key starting point for that person will be to build on the work that's already been done (some of which is included in this update) and engage with key Commonwealth, state and territory agencies and others that have a stake in Australian ICD-11 use cases to understand the costs and benefits of implementing the classification.

There's more on all these things below. Please let us know if you have any feedback or questions about any of it. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Health Classifications Update.

Michael Frost

Senior Executive, Primary Healthcare, Information Standards and Communications Group and
Centre Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications Australia



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International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) Updates

The Australian ICD-11 Task Force (AITF)

The AITF is leading the work to **inform a decision regarding the implementation of ICD-11 in Australia** in a range of use cases. The AITF has developed a multi-year Roadmap of tasks required to identify the potential benefits and likely costs of the implementation of ICD-11. AITF members have committed to undertaking these tasks across 2024 and 2025.



Membership of this Task Force includes representation from each of the states and territories, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the IHACPA, the Australian Digital Health Agency, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care.

The AITF is currently in the *planning and evaluation* phase of the Roadmap and anticipates the completion of these tasks by the end of 2025.

In 2024, the AITF achieved the following tasks:

Indicator and Dataset Reviews

The overarching aim is to review national and jurisdictional health indicators that use ICD-10(-AM) and identify equivalent codes in ICD-11, and for those indicators where ICD-10(-AM) codes are not used, to assess whether an appropriate code now exists in ICD-11. An additional aim is to identify areas or gaps in information needs that ICD-11 could address.

So far, results have identified:

- 88 national and jurisdictional indicators/data sets that currently use ICD codes
- 107 indicators/data sets that could use ICD-11 codes
- 18 indicators/data sets that have health data gaps, including due to limitations of current classification systems.

Communication Strategy Subgroup

The Communications Strategy Task Group was established in May 2024 to outline what communication is needed to support decision-makers as they consider ICD-11 implementation and the subsequent development of a stakeholder Communication Strategy.

The Communication Strategy has been developed by the subgroup and was endorsed by the AITF in late 2024.

Education Needs Assessment

The AITF has begun to assess the education needs related to ICD-11. The aim of doing this assessment is to understand what education programs are currently in place for ICD-10(-AM), what revision efforts will be required, and the resources and timelines this will involve, to inform the business case for ICD-11 implementation in Australia.

A survey was conducted during October/November with known classification education providers. Key outcomes from this survey identified the need for:

- 12 to 18-months lead time for classification education providers to prepare or update education material for ICD-11
- development of standard resources for consistency in education provided
- more (and early) engagement with classification education providers in the ICD-11 implementation process.

Horizon Scan Activities

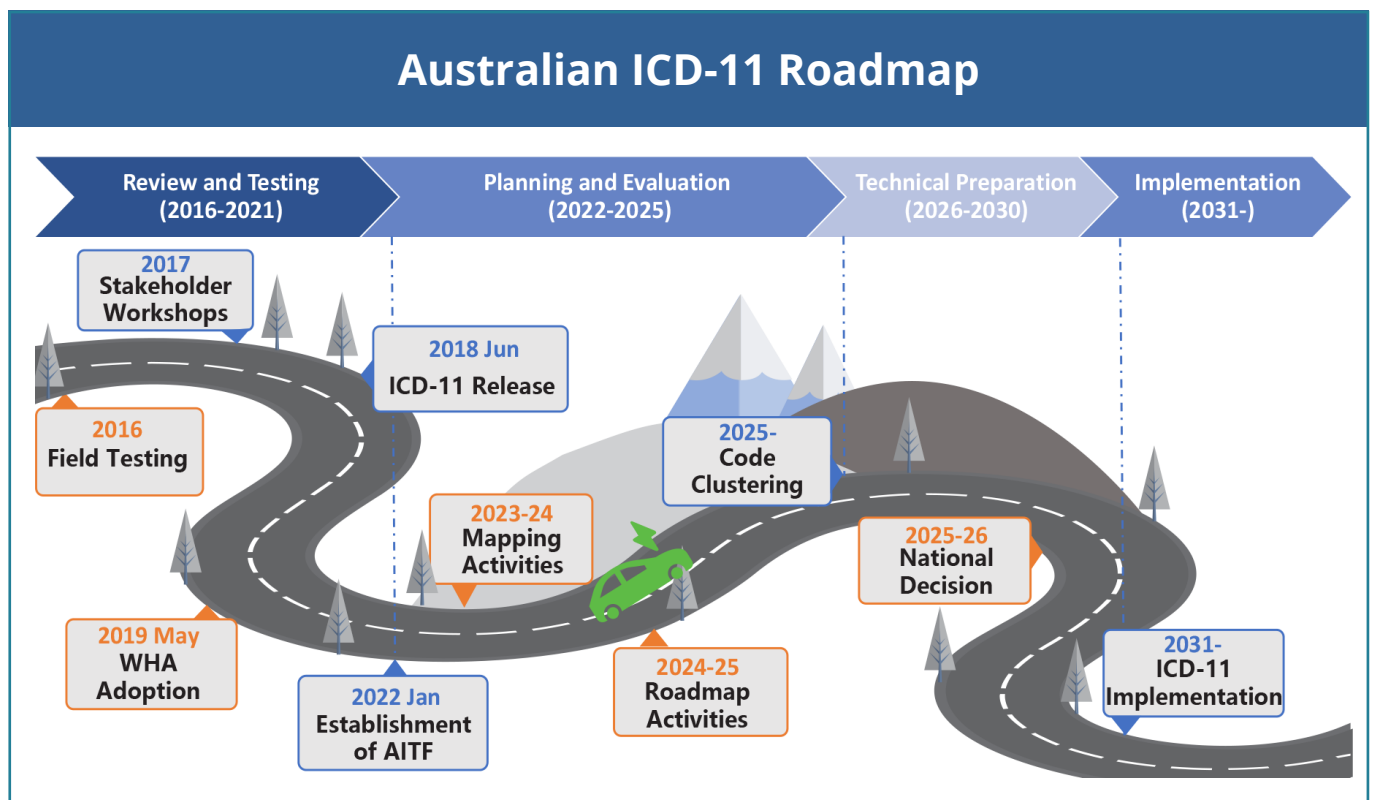
The AITF has made significant progress in understanding and mapping the Australian healthcare classification landscape, including the:

- identification of stakeholder groups
- identification of potential use cases
- identification of potential pilots
- evaluation of private health sector infrastructure
- identification and assessment of alternative classifications
- assessment of digital readiness of hospitals.

Plans for 2025

The AITF Roadmap includes the following tasks for 2025:

- ICD-11 cost and benefit analysis
- evaluating the broader IT system enhancements required to support ICD-11
- mappings and dual coding studies
- identifying and assessing the impacts on IT systems and infrastructure
- Workforce Strategy development
- recruitment of a dedicated project officer to manage the project and assist with completion of Roadmap tasks.



ICD-11 Activities

Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee ICD (CSAC-ICD)

Work has continued over the past six months on improving content alignment of ICD-11 with other WHO reference classifications (ICF and ICHI), and the development and improvement of the classification content itself.

Over 380 proposals for changes to the ICD were reviewed and processed this year, with more than 150 proposals being accepted for future implementation. This number is about double that of previous years.

Work continues to streamline the CSAC-ICD proposal review processes, as the number of proposals for review is expected to continue increasing as countries move to implementation.

Round 1 of voting for CSAC-ICD will open in April 2025.

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

SNOMED International and WHO Collaboration Exploration

Greater interoperability between WHO-FIC and other terminologies has been a long-standing issue for WHO member states. This culminated in a World Health Assembly statement in May 2023 calling for more resources for the WHO classifications team to work on this interoperability as well as focusing more resources on meeting member states needs in the core business of the classifications team.

Discussions between WHO and SNOMED International regarding potential integration between ICD-11 and SNOMED CT have been ongoing since at least 2014, and in October 2024 there was a joint announcement that the WHO and SNOMED International will revisit potential collaboration to:

- ensure consistent use of medical information, improve data utility, and enhance global health outcomes
- reduce complexity and duplication, making it easier for countries to use, maintain and translate SNOMED CT and ICD-11 together
- create a shared solution for all member states, including a strategic roadmap with dedicated expertise
- ensure alignment with global regulations to support a harmonized health data ecosystem.

The WHO [media statement](#) and SNOMED International [media statement](#) are available for further information.



Primary Care and ICD-11

Revival of work on Primary Care by the WHO-FIC Network

The AIHW is closely following the progress of Richard Madden's project mapping of the ICD-11 Primary Care linearisation and ICPC-3.

Presented at the 2024 WHO-FIC Network meeting, this work has resulted in the Network re-focusing efforts on the use of ICD-11 for primary care going forward.

This is something of strong interest for Australia given intensified interest in the last year in obtaining coded data from general practice with an emphasis on 'reason for encounter'. We will therefore actively participate in this work by the Network, alongside work we are doing on primary care data in Australia.

International efforts to use ICD-11 in Primary Care

Presently, there is limited information from countries within the WHO-FIC Network on actual use of ICD-11 in primary care, although many have expressed, like us, that this is a priority area for them. Whilst there is a Primary Care linearisation, countries that are interested in using ICD-11 for this use seem to have focused on using the ICD-11 Mortality and Morbidity Statistics (MMS) linearisation instead, given it is more actively updated and maintained by the Network and can enable direct comparison of information coded in general practice and hospital care.

ICD-11 Mapping Task Force (MTF)

The MTF continues to progress through its work plan.

Activities include:

- Phase One of the Task Force work has been completed, highlighting some issues such as residual codes within ICD-11 that need to be removed. Work will continue on this within the capacity of the limited resources available
- evaluation of automated mapping tools is progressing.



Status of ICD-11 implementation globally

The Australian Collaborating Centre (ACC) engages regularly with other WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres to share implementation experiences and learnings.

Recent WHO updates from the 2024 Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) annual meeting noted advances in morbidity and mortality implementation in Central Asia, some countries in the African region are now reporting data with ICD-11 and country specific workshops are being held in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Moving into 2025, Australia will continue to engage with a range of countries as we learn of their progression in ICD-11 implementation and data usage.

Did you know?

In February of this year, the ICD-11 annual update will be released, incorporating extensive feedback from various countries as they progress towards implementation.

This update was a significant collaborative effort, reflecting the global commitment particularly via the CSAC-ICD to enhancing ICD-11.

What's new with ICD-11 in 2025?

Enhanced diagnostic detail: The introduction of more postcoordination capabilities allows for capturing of nuanced clinical detail, e.g. offering over 200 new codes for allergens alone. These refinements aid in recording precise diagnoses and in tailoring treatment plans.

Content expansion: This year's update enriches ICD-11 with cutting-edge medical knowledge, integrating new diseases and conditions to keep healthcare professionals ahead in their practice. The revision also fine-tunes the classification system, ensuring precision and relevance in patient care.

Multilingual support: As of 2024, ICD-11 was available in 10 languages. Translation has commenced on two new languages (Mongolian and Lao) and the Thai translation is continuing ensuring ICD-11 can progress to be the language for global health.

Digital tools and API enhancements: The release of the WHO digital open rule integrated cause of death selection (DORIS) tool in multiple languages, alongside updated APIs, enhances the universal digital experience, supporting both online and offline applications.

Maintenance platform optimisation: The ICD-11 maintenance platform was again revised to improve the user experience, making updates more accessible and management more efficient for all stakeholders.

ICD-11 Implementation or Transition Guide: In 2025, the EIC will continue its work to update the Implementation or Transition Guide with more comprehensive and up-to-date guidance including advice on mapping and dual coding work.

Updated ICD-11 Education Tool: The ICD-11 Education Tool was updated to the 2024 ICD-11 release, which is anticipated to be available on the WHO ICD-11 training [website](#) in early 2025.

Global implementation support: Recognising the growing implementation of ICD-11 across over 120 countries, resources continue to be released, including the [WHO ICD11 YouTube channel](#) offering tutorials and additional comprehensive guides to support implementation.



Recent ICD-11 resources

Websites

- The AIHW updated the [ICD-11 FAQs and resources webpage](#) and the [ICD-11 webpage](#) in October 2024.
- IHACPA has also launched an [ICD-11 information webpage](#).

Journal Articles

- [Rethinking ICD-11 training: Why and how](#)
- [Definitions, terminology and standards for reporting of births and deaths in the perinatal period: International Classification of Diseases \(ICD-11\)](#)
- [Internal consistency of measures for ICD-11 personality disorder severity and traits: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- [Examining the validity and factor structure of the ICD-11 trait domains.](#)
- [Development and psychometric evaluation of the Personality Disorder Severity ICD-11 \(PDS-ICD-11\) Clinician-Rating Form](#)
- [Child and adolescent psychiatric disorders and ICD-11](#)
- [Self-Reported ICD-11 Personality Disorder Severity in Peruvian Adolescents: Structure, Validity, and Tentative Cutoffs](#)



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

Work has continued on improving content of the classification, including index (searchable) terms, as well as the work of the Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG) to create an ICF Reference Guide.

A total of 35 proposals were reviewed for ICF in 2024.

The development of a draft of a *Guide for submission of ICF proposals* commenced in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

Round 1 of voting for CSAC-ICF will open in April 2025.

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



International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) Updates

The ICHI is the WHO's newest classification for capturing and reporting health interventions for clinical and statistical purposes.

A key development over recent months has been the establishment of the Health Interventions Reference Group (HIRG) at the 2024 Annual meeting, with inaugural co-chairs Ann-Helene Almborg from the Nordic Collaborating Centre (CC) and Andrea Martinuzzi from the Italian CC.

The HIRG will commence meeting on a similar timetable to other Committees and Reference Groups (CRGs) in 2025.

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



WHO-FIC Network Update

About the WHO-FIC Network

The WHO-FIC Network consists of 23 CCs, 7 WHO CCs for Classification Scientific Support/Classification, Terminology and Standards, 2 WHO CCs for Verbal Autopsy, 8 non-government organisations in official relations with WHO, several country focal points and technical experts.

The AIHW has been designated as the Australian WHO-FIC CC since 1991 and is currently designated until 2026. Australia has extensive active participation in the WHO-FIC Network CRGs, and the AIHW extends its thanks to its members for their past, present, and future involvement and 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. This is done through active participation of national stakeholders, such as the ABS, AIHW, IHACPA and others, within the WHO-FIC Network.

This engagement ensures that Australia's use cases and unique requirements are considered in the development, implementation, and ongoing updates to the Reference Classifications.

This initiative ties in with the AITF Roadmap task *ICD-11 Classification Preparation*, which is focused on assessing the ICD-11 classification's readiness and completeness in key areas, including code structure, extension codes, inclusions and exclusions, and descriptive content relevant to Australian health information use cases.

WHO-FIC Network 2024 Annual Meetings

WHO-FIC Network CRG annual meetings were recently held from 14-19 October 2024. These meetings were originally scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda but due to an outbreak of Marburg virus in Kigali, some of these meetings were moved to WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO restricted the numbers for onsite participation due to meeting room limitations, which included the co-chairs and secretariat for the Mortality Reference Group and the CSAC-ICD. All other CRGs held their annual meetings virtually.

Therefore, only three (3) government representatives from AIHW and the ABS attended in-person, and one (1) non-government participant attended from the University of Sydney. The remainder of the Australian delegation attended virtually.

As per protocol for the annual meeting, a booklet of posters containing the work of the collaborating centres and CRGs was released. This year, the WHO have separated this into sections:

- [ICD-11 WHO-FIC posters 2024](#)
- [ICF WHO-FIC posters 2024](#)
- [ICHI WHO-FIC posters 2024](#)

Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC) update

The CSAC-ICD had 72 ICD-11 proposals and 16 Reference Guide proposals for review during the annual meeting.

In total, the CSAC-ICD considered 385 ICD-11 and 40 Reference Guide proposals this year. Work is underway to revise the CSAC-ICD update process to assist with the larger volume of proposals being received.

Kaori Nakayama (Japan CC) was elected as the new CSAC-ICD co-chair for the next two years, and Council has approved the assignment of a second CSAC-ICD co-chair, with an expression of interest sent out late December 2024 to CCs for nominees.

The CSAC-ICF reviewed a total of 35 update proposals for the ICF this year, while Masahiko Mukaino was re-elected as CSAC-ICF co-chair for a second term.

Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) update

Progress towards Strategic Work Plan items:

Education:

The ACC delivered the updated WHO-FIC ICD-11 Education Tool to WHO in the week prior to the annual meeting.

Implementation:

Two active working sessions were undertaken regarding the ICD-11 Implementation or Transition Guide to focus efforts on updating two areas - crosswalks (mapping) and comparability, and dual coding studies.

There were three presentations:

- IHACPA (ACC) showing their plan for a framework for implementation in activity-based funding classification areas of ICD-11
- Rwanda on a primary care implementation of ICD-11
- Kuwait on a new YouTube channel video: [ICD-11 and national modifications](#).

Family Development Committee (FDC) Update

Xavier Pastor (Spain CC) was elected as the new co-chair.

Linked ontologies/terminologies:

A Steering Group and working groups were established with consensus on developing a new collaboration framework. Expected timeline for linkage between SNOMED CT and ICD-11 likely to be two to four years.

ICHI:

The Health Interventions Reference Group (HIRG) was established with Ann-Helene Almborg (Nordic CC) and Andrea Martinuzzi (Italian CC) as co-chairs and Nicole Rankin (ACC) as Secretariat. Member nominations from CCs are currently being received, the Australian members will be Anne Elsworth as the voting member, Nicole Rankin and Richard Madden as members, with Michael Frost an observer.

Content alignment and harmonisation (joint session with ITC):

Mapping has been undertaken between ICF body structures, ICD-11 anatomy and topography (extension codes) and ICHI anatomical targets to determine areas of overlap. FDC will now take forward the work to actually harmonise these areas.

Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)

Soraya Maart (South Africa CC) and Patricia Saleeby (United States of America CC) were elected as the new co-chairs. Manuel Yanez (Mexico CC) continues as secretariat.

Key items for FDRG were:

- The development of the ICF Reference Guide
- The ICF qualifier assignment will be aligned with ICD-11 Supplementary section for functioning assessment (Chapter V). Further work to differentiate and define capacity and performance qualifiers is required
- FDRG supported CSAC-ICF holding over all pain related proposals until harmonisation with ICD-11 had progressed
- A draft survey has been developed to determine the use of ICF in Member countries, however FDRG noted that the purpose of the survey and its intended audience were unclear.



Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC) update

Discussions were focused around:

- API enhancements: including inclusion of the ICF, support for auto-coding opportunities, pre-release of the FHIR API and backward compatibilities to previous releases
- ICD-11 Coding tool revision: including better search mechanisms for acronyms, postcoordination options and multilingual options
- DORIS (**D**igital **O**pen **R**ule **I**ntegrated Cause of Death **S**election): including application of the ICD-11 mortality coding rules
- Mondo/ICD-11 Integration: work is currently being undertaken to compare the WHO-FIC Foundation with Mondo with future work predicted where there are Mondo terms with no appropriate parent in ICD-11
- iCAT update: The iCAT-X new collaborative editing tool is under development. iCAT-X has been developed to allow easy version control, branching and merging of content from other sources, and better postcoordination.



Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG) update

Over the 2 days updates were provided on the following and discussed:

- Casemix tool - presentation of work completed by Martti Virtanen “DRG – using ICD-11 and ICHI”
- Update from the Quality and Safety Working Group
- Strategies to develop guidance for national specific needs – Canada (Chair of MbRG national linearisation working group) presented on the work of this group to date. The US, Australia and Germany presented on the governance of ICD-10 national modifications in their countries and WHO gave a presentation on how national linearisations can be derived from the ICD-11 Foundation and also presented and discussed the steps and challenges in enabling ICD-11 linearisations.

Mortality Reference Group (MRG) update

Support for ICD-11 implementation

- Agreement was reached at the October meeting to form a subgroup which will work on updating decision tables which are used to operationalise the ICD coding rules
- The MRG noted with interest developments regarding potential use case or country specific codesets which could limit or expand available codes according to needs and will explore implications for countries with more developed mortality data systems
- Agreement was reached with WHO that a mortality version of the coding tool could be made available to improve the coding accuracy of terms which are commonly less well defined on death certificates.

Update and refinement of the ICD-11 codeset and reference guide

- The MRG considered around 40 proposals during the meeting, with many being finalised through CSAC-ICD at the October meeting
- The MRG reviewed coding exercises across multiple chapters including External causes and Neoplasms resulting in several recommendations and new proposals.

Traditional Medicine (TMRG) update

Professor Young-Suk Kim (Korea CC) and Doctor John Hughes (UK CC) were elected as the new co-chairs for TMRG.

Topics of discussion related to an initiative to identify a minimum data set for TM for potential use in the HL7 International Patient Summary, and the international work on electronic health record structures that have existing standards which would be useful to be extended to support TM implementations.

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Event type
March	Australian Healthcare Week	Sydney	Conference
May	Digital Health Festival 2025	Melbourne	Conference
August	Health Innovation Community (HIC)	Melbourne	Conference
August	IHACPA Conference	Adelaide	Conference
October	HIMAA 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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Any enquiries about this newsletter should be directed to:
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6244 1000, Email: info@aihw.gov.au.

AIHW

Stronger evidence,
better decisions,
improved health and welfare