

# World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications, Australia

## ICD-11 Stakeholder Update no. 6 — July 2024

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### Welcome

Welcome to the AIHW's 6th ICD-11 Stakeholder Update.

2024 is shaping up as quite a busy year in the Australian Collaborating Centre and in pulling together information to advise on the potential benefits and costs ahead of a decision on ICD-11 implementation. We've been especially focused on that work and on engaging with the international WHO-FIC Network on ensuring its rules and ways of doing things are as clear and efficient as they can be. We've been working closely with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and other members of the Network to fine tune approval processes for the Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee—a key group that faces increasing work in its role looking at proposals to amend or update the ICD-11, as ICD-11 is translated into other languages or tested by countries for local use cases. We're also taking a keen interest in discussions of how linearisations of the classification will work, such as the presentation at the recent mid-year meetings in Mexico City, which I attended remotely in the wee hours of the morning.



Another interesting presentation at those meetings was by our own Richard Madden on his mapping of the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) to ICD-11 and demonstrating the potential of the primary case use case for the classification. I anticipate next newsletter will focus on the annual meetings, scheduled to held in Kigali, Rwanda in October this year, with a focus on more developments on the WHO-FIC Network's strategic work plan.

One other notable event within the Australian Collaborating Centre Network was the awarding of the [Public Service Medal](#) to James Eynstone-Hinkins in the King's Birthday Honours list in 2024, for "outstanding public service through his substantial contribution to the Australian Government in the field of data and statistics in public health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic." Congratulations to James on this well-deserved honour.

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 Stakeholder 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



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

## Australian ICD-11 Implementation Planning: the Australian ICD-11 Task Force

The AITF is currently in the 'planning and evaluation' phase of the Roadmap and anticipates these activities to be completed by the end of 2025. Since the beginning of 2024 the AITF has been doing the following tasks:

### Indicator and Dataset Reviews

The aim of these activities is to review national and jurisdictional health indicators to identify whether they use ICD-10(-AM) or not, and if so, whether the equivalent codes exist in ICD-11. For indicators where ICD-10(-AM) codes are not used, we are assessing whether these could be captured using ICD-11. The final aim is to identify gaps in information needs that ICD-11 could address.

### Communication Strategy

The AITF has begun development of a communication strategy to keep relevant stakeholders informed about ICD-11 planning in Australia. A sub-group led by the NSW Ministry of Health has been established to get this done.

### Education Needs Assessment

The AITF has begun to assess the education needs related to ICD-11. The aim of doing this is to understand what education programs are currently in place using ICD-10(-AM) and who is providing

them, what revision efforts will be required, and the resources and timelines this will involve.

### Update of the ICD-11 Frequently Asked Questions

The AITF has initiated a review process for the [ICD-11 FAQs on the AIHW website](#), which were initially introduced to stakeholders in the January 2024 edition. Our aim is to integrate the valuable feedback we have received and to enrich the FAQs with additional questions and resources based on this input. We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders who have provided feedback and posed questions. Your contributions are invaluable in enhancing the comprehensive nature and usefulness of our FAQs!

### Identification of Australian Stakeholders and Use Cases

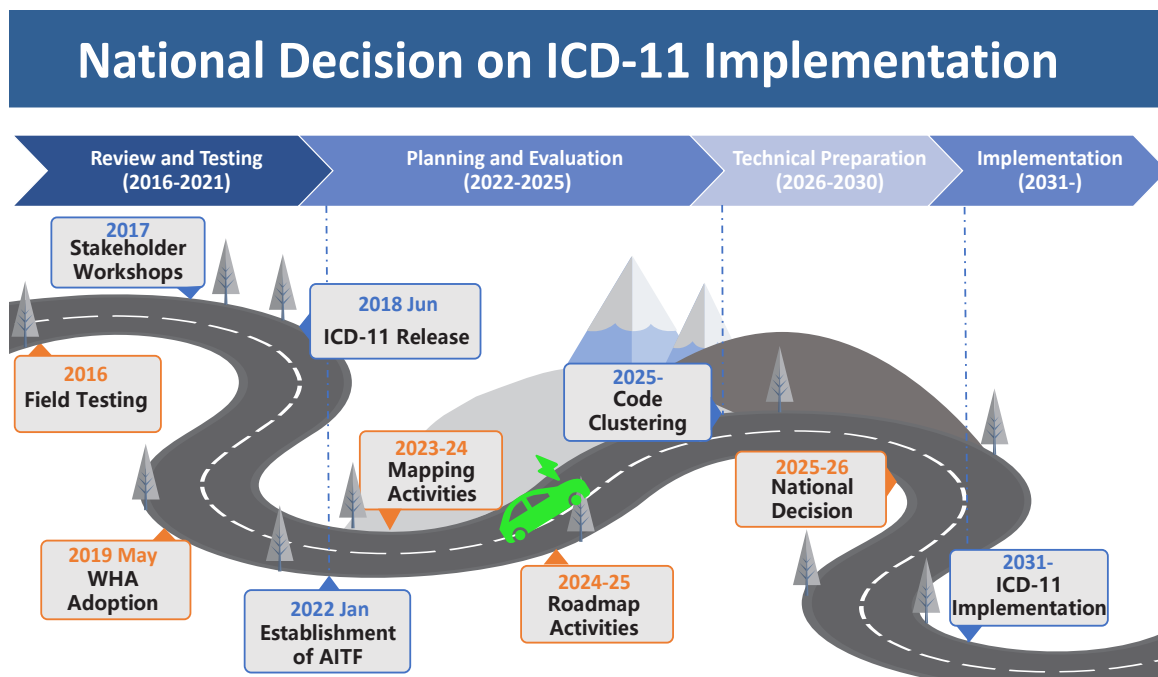
The AITF continues to identify stakeholder groups and use cases for ICD-11 in Australia. Once identified, stakeholder profiles will be developed to document anticipated benefits and considerations of transitioning to ICD-11 specific to those groups.

Reflecting on Australia's ICD-11 journey thus far, we look forward to the progress the AITF will make going forward.

## ICD-11 Mapping Task Force (MTF)

The Mapping Task Force (MTF) continues to make progress. Activities include:

- the validation process for ICD-10 to ICD-11 maps, with comparison and analysis of WHO maps by independent specialists.
- the evaluation of mapping tools, supported by funding from the Dutch Collaborating Centre.



## ICD-11 2024 release!

***Did you know that ICD-11 has been specifically designed to be used across all sectors of the healthcare system?***

The 2024 version of ICD-11 MMS was released in February, incorporating extensive feedback from various countries as they progress towards implementation. This update was a significant collaborative effort, reflecting the global commitment to enhancing ICD-11.

What's new with ICD-11 in 2024?

- **Enhanced diagnostic detail:** The introduction of advanced 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 diagnosis 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:** ICD-11 is now available in 10 languages. With ongoing efforts to add more, ICD-11 is truly the language of global health.
- **Streamlined transition tools:** To ease the migration from ICD-10, mapping tables were enhanced with additional mapping options to the foundation facilitating a smoother transition to ICD-11 with comprehensive cross-references and guides.
- **Digital tools and API enhancements:** The release candidate 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 revamped for an improved user experience, making updates more accessible and management more efficient for all stakeholders.
- **Global implementation support:** Recognising the growing implementation of ICD-11 across over 120 countries, extensive resources were rolled out, including a new [WHO ICD-11 YouTube channel](#) offering tutorials, and additional comprehensive guides for seamless integration.

## The global view of ICD-11 implementation

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

Recent updates from China and Canada are summarised below.

### China

In April, the Chinese Collaborating Centre (CCC) published a paper detailing the findings of its ICD-11 morbidity coding pilot conducted in 2023. The CCC was invited to present these findings to the AITF members, offering valuable insights on the potential benefits of ICD-11 pilot studies in Australia.

The study highlighted several key considerations for successful ICD-11 implementation, based on China's experience, including:

- the review and adaptation of ICD-11 content to ensure it is fit for the country data needs
- the need for creation of quality verification tools for ICD-11 coded data
- the establishment of a training and certification system for coders and data analysts
- the importance of conducting clinical documentation improvement projects to draw on the full benefits of the detailed classification of ICD-11 and educate clinicians on documentation requirements for classification purposes.

The findings of the study have been published [in the JAMIA journal](#).

## Canada

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), as the Collaborating Centre for Canada, has recently enhanced its ICD-11 web pages to include information on '[Implementation Planning for ICD-11](#)'. This page provides an outline of the Canadian ICD-11 Implementation Roadmap, which details project activities organised under five key priorities:

1. Project Management
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
3. Impact Assessment
4. Interoperability
5. Training and Capacity-Building.

Additionally, stakeholders can now get [quarterly progress reports](#) to follow CIHI's advancements in the implementation of ICD-11.

For more information about ICD-11, visit the [WHO's ICD-11 home page](#).

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

The [2024 version of the ICF](#) has just been released by WHO. It is the first update to the ICF since 2018. There is also a [new ICF coding tool](#), bringing the ICF into alignment with the ICD and ICHI in terms of available online user tools.

A working group within the WHO-FIC Network has been established via the Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG) to create an ICF Reference Guide. This will include content from the existing ICF Introduction chapter and Annexes 1 and 2 (from ICF 2001) and will help users to use the online ICF product, but also provide relevant information such as how to use the classification, update cycles and maintenance.

Work is underway to enhance the ICF search function by increasing the vocabulary in the index (searchable) terms. Natural language data sets are being sought from WHO-FIC members from which terms in current clinical use can be extracted. If you have Australian examples of terms, please email the ACC secretariat at [who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au](mailto:who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au).

The V section of ICD-11 includes ICF-based functioning categories. Training materials on the use of the V section are being developed and more information regarding these will be shared when available.

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

## International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) Updates

The International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) is the WHO's newest classification for capturing and reporting health interventions for clinical and statistical purposes. It is not yet endorsed by the World Health Assembly.

Refinement efforts by the WHO continue, with a focus on addressing residuals and organising certain areas, such as lifestyle behaviours, under sub-headings for improved usability. Translations of ICHI are moving forward, however the review of the ICHI Reference Guide by WHO is not yet complete. The Health Interventions Reference Group will soon be formed, with Terms of Reference recently approved by the WHO-FIC Network Advisory Council.

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

## Recent classification news, publications and presentations

### WHO Resources

- [WHO ICD-11 YouTube channel](#)
- WHO release: [Announcing the Release Candidate of DORIS tool](#)
- WHO release: [New collaboration between WHO International Classification of Diseases \(ICD\) and MedDRA launched](#)
- WHO release: [Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment released with International Classification of Health Intervention \(ICHI\) codes](#)
- WHO release: [WHO releases AI ethics and governance guidance for large multi-modal models](#)

### ICD-11 Journal Articles

- [Coding Diagnoses from the Electronic Death Certificate with the 11th Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems: An Exploratory Study from Germany](#)
- [Feasibility of replacing the ICD-10-CM with the ICD-11 for morbidity coding: A content analysis](#)

- [Autism spectrum disorder in ICD-11—a critical reflection of its possible impact on clinical practice and research](#)
- [Development and psychometric evaluation of the Personality Disorder Severity ICD-11 \(PDS-ICD-11\) Clinician-Rating Form](#)
- [Meta-Analysis of Internet Gaming Disorder Prevalence: Assessing the Impacts of DSM-5 and ICD-11 Diagnostic Criteria](#)
- [Practical implications of ICD-11 personality disorder classifications](#)
- [Examining the validity and factor structure of the ICD-11 trait domains](#)
- [Clinical descriptions and diagnostic requirements for ICD-11 mental, behavioural and neurodevelopmental disorders](#)
- [Mental health professionals' use of the ICD-11 classification of impulse control disorders and behavioral addictions: An international field study](#)
- [Prevalence and correlates of ICD-11 prolonged grief disorder among adults living in Ukraine during the war with Russia](#)
- [The International Grief Questionnaire \(IGQ\): A new measure of ICD-11 prolonged grief disorder](#)



Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG)



Breakout working sessions of FDRG

## 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 WHO-FIC Australian 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.

### WHO-FIC Network 2024 Mid-Year Meetings



Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)

WHO-FIC Network Committees and Reference Group (CRGs) mid-year meetings were recently held in Mexico City, Mexico from 13–16 May 2024. These were hosted by the Mexican Collaborating Centre (CC) and available for in-person and virtual attendance.

The CRGs which held meetings in Mexico were the:

Family Development Committee (FDC)

Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG)

Mortality Reference Group (MRG)

Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG).

Other CRGs, such as the Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC) and Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) held mid-year meetings virtually in May and June 2024. The Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC) do not hold mid-year meetings.

## Classification and Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC) update

The main function of the CSAC is to assist WHO in the update and maintenance of its reference classifications – ICD, ICF and ICHI. It is split into two groups presently, for the ICD and ICF, with a third group for ICHI to be established in the future.

### ICD

Each year, this group reviews proposals for changes to the ICD. In 2024, there are currently 185 ICD proposals being considered. This is the largest number for review in recent years. Round 1 voting is currently open but will close on 6 July 2024. Round 2 voting will open shortly after and include proposals for changes to the ICD-11 Reference Guide. An Australian sub-group has been formed to review proposals and provide advice to the Australian voting member on whether these proposals are fit for Australian purposes.

### ICF

Each year, this group reviews proposals for changes to the ICF. With the move to the digital platform much of CSAC-ICF discussions have been around the new proposal platform and development of guidance in how to use the platform both for submission of proposals and review of them. In 2024, there are 34 proposals being reviewed, with 4 progressing to voting. Voting will commence on 1 July and will be open for 8 weeks. An Australian sub-group has been formed to review proposals and provide advice to the Australian voting member on whether these proposals are fit for Australian purposes.

## Education and Implementation Committee (EIC) update

A series of updates were provided on the ICD-11 Implementation/Transition Guide during the recent stakeholder session. The WHO outlined their requirements, proposing initial enhancements for Crosswalks (mapping) and comparability studies, alongside the initiation of dual coding studies. To support these efforts, a call for volunteers for a small writing group for amendments to the Implementation/Transition Guide was made. Additionally, feedback was requested on the usage of the ICD-11 Implementation Forum, with discussions revolving around the potential widening of approved user access beyond the current criteria.

## Family Development Committee (FDC) Update

Discussions at mid-years were around the advancements in reference classifications content alignment and harmonisation of foundational content. The resulting proposals informed by this work will likely impact multiple classifications.

There was also discussion on work enriching the foundation through linked ontologies/terminologies

Also tabled was information regarding US studies comparing ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS to ICD-11 and ICHI, particularly focusing on patient safety indicators, alongside the introduction of an updated template for use cases.

## Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG)

Progress was made towards the FDRG Strategic Work Plan, including the work that has been done regarding Reference Classifications content alignment and harmonisation, such as anatomical parts in ICF in relation to ICD-11, identifying and addressing areas of overlap and establishing a workflow.

A small writing group was formed to advance the ICF Reference Guide and discussion of the compilation and analysis of current coding practices and use case descriptions. There was a presentation to introduce the 2024 ICF release, featuring the browser and coding tool and training on applying qualifiers to ICF codes, and a practical session to review and apply existing terms to a template and consideration for inclusion in the browser and/or coding tool as inclusion or index terms.

## Informatics and Terminology Committee (ITC) update

During its virtual mid-year meeting, the ITC were updated on WHO's work to align ICF digital content to match the Foundation structure, to enable the release of the 2024 ICF frozen version and coding tool. ICF environmental factors still need to be manually added to a code string however, as the coding tool does not yet provide this functionality.

ITC members also learned that the ICD-API has been updated in line with the ICD 2024 release, with the coding tool now allowing users to select postcoordination options other than 'suggested' postcoordination provided by the API.

Lastly, WHO's Codefusion tool, which allows users to batch auto-code plain text diagnoses, has been updated to include the ICF. WHO's DORIS software also now offers updated web and desktop versions, and batch processing and single textual certificate coding can now be performed.

## Morbidity Reference Group (MbRG) update

Key updates from the mid-year meeting include discussion about the advancements in the Casemix tool aiming to enhance its functionality. Revised text for the Reference Guide was developed for neoplasms and finalisation of gold standard cancer coding exercises in ICD-FiT.

There were practical coding sessions for obstetric and injury coding exercises, with discussions focusing on addressing variation and inconsistencies in ICD-11 and the ICD coding tool. Extensive discussions were held regarding the clarification needs from WHO-FIC CCs from WHO on various aspects of national linearisation and alignment with the Foundation.

## Mortality Reference Group (MRG) update

Key highlights from mid-year meetings include the exchange of valuable information about the implementation plans across member countries, identifying priority areas where MRG can offer guidance and facilitate collaborative projects.

There were working sessions for core coding requirements for neoplasms, focusing on mortality issues associated with the term 'metastatic'; and issues related to post-coordination in ICD-11 for mortality, particularly focusing on syntax and examples of required vs. optional use of extensions. There was also continued discussions centred around maternal and perinatal mortality, with a focus on harmonising ICD-11 MMS with existing Reference Guide rules for mortality.

## Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Event type
5–7 August	<a href="#">Health Informatics Conference</a>	Brisbane, Australia	In person
14–18 October	<a href="#">WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting</a>	Kigali, Rwanda	Hybrid
28–30 October	<a href="#">HIMAA Conference 2024</a>	Melbourne, Australia	In person

## 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 Australian CC and activities relating to ICD-11 implementation in Australia.

Email us at [who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au](mailto:who-fic-acc@aihw.gov.au).

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Stronger evidence,  
better decisions,  
improved health and welfare