



The growing tree of Functioning Interventions within ICHI

12 – 18 October 2013
Beijing, China

Poster Number
WHO/CTS to insert

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Abstract

The International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) is the third WHO reference classification. The interventions aimed at body functions, activities or environmental factors (functioning interventions) typically delivered, e.g., in rehabilitation and mental health sectors, are growing in weight and complexity worldwide. The work of the "technical working group" (TWG) for functioning interventions here describe the further steps completed in ICHI-FI and the state of its development. The results for the whole ICHI are 627 targets, 130 actions and 54 means. The alpha2 version of ICHI functioning includes 1490 interventions. Conclusions. At the end of this first round of refinement, 782 functioning interventions are listed, which were doubled to the alpha2 version. A process for systematically checking of the present list for completeness and significance is now planned, with the goal to bring the functioning intervention list to a degree of stability.

Introduction

The International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI) is the third WHO reference classification, and among its scope is to provide a framework systematically describing health interventions to allow comparison in provision of health interventions, assist in the development of health policies, contribute to evaluation of effectiveness.

The interventions aimed at body functions, activities or environmental factors (functioning interventions) typically delivered, e.g., in rehabilitation and mental health sectors, are growing in weight and complexity worldwide, but they are paradoxically represented in a very sketchy and non-systematic way in the intervention list of ICD9CM and in intervention classifications used in some countries.

Development 2011-12

The work of the "technical working group (TWG) for functioning interventions commenced in Sydney Australia in 2011 and led to the first listing of functioning interventions which consistently applied the three axes (target, action, mean) upon which the ICHI framework is built. This initial list of 782 functioning interventions was included in the ICHI alpha draft presented at the 2012 Brasilia WHO-FIC annual meeting.

We here describe the further steps completed in ICHI-FI and the state of its development.

Methods & Materials

The goals were pursued with face to face meetings and teleconferences, in which the TWG included contributors from experts and practitioners in the selected areas, and reached agreement through discussion and audit.

Goals

The Functioning TWG defined 3 goals to be reached within 2013:

- revising and enriching the ICHI axes to enhance the descriptive capacity of the system;
- address mental health, neuropsychology, Physical therapy and Occupational therapy as areas of particular relevance and complexity;
- perform a first revision of the functioning interventions.

Results

The results are 627 targets, 130 actions and 54 means for the whole ICHI.

Targets

Final count of targets is 627 distributed as following:

Anatomy	307
Body functions	111
Activities and participation	110
Environmental factors	75
Behaviours	21
Others	3

The body functions, activities and participation and environmental factors can be used at different levels such as chapters, blocks and 2nd and 3rd level of the ICF.

Actions

Action codes were enriched to appropriately capture the peculiar nature of actions performed in the functioning field.

Final count of actions is 130. The actions are distributed as following:

Diagnostic	16
Therapeutic	76
Managing	14
Preventing	24

Clearer distinction between actions and means allowed the repositioning of some means as actions and vice versa.

Means

Final count for means is 54 at approach, techniques, method and sample.

Interventions

The alpha 2 version include 1490 interventions, which are distributed as follows:

Mental Health Interventions	67
Interventions on Body functions	389
Interventions on Activities and Participation	770
Interventions on an Individuals Environment	71
Public Health Interventions (incl Behaviours)	193

Issues raised during the revision process include:

- Need for extensions to represent variations in a given intervention
- Editorial rules to insure balance of granularity
- Position of non surgical interventions to specific systems or organs within the classification
- Overlap/relationship with interventions in public health

Conclusions

At the end of this first round of refinement, 782 functioning interventions are listed. The Alpha 2 version of ICHI functioning includes 1490 interventions. A process for systematically checking of the present list for completeness and significance is now planned, with the goal to bring the functioning intervention list to a degree of stability.

Acknowledgements

The work of the Technical Working Group (Andrea Martinuzzi, chair, Ann-Helene Almborg, coordinator) and that of all collaborating experts from various professions and Centres are gratefully acknowledged

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