

Progress on ICPC: Italy 2012

History:

ICD-9 classification has been adopted in Italy since 1975 as a tool to collect clinical informations that come from the hospital's discharge letters. Is not mandatory for general practitioners to code diagnosis using the ICD-9 CM 2007 version even though in some Italian regions GPs are obliged to send monthly their drugs prescriptions to the local health system with the ICD code, so their drug expenditure can be controlled.

ICPC has been known since 1970 and some GPs have developed their own software to use the ICPC in electronic version only for the research. In 2008 the Italian 2 pager has been translated and it is available on the KITHs website. In 2009 the first ICPC Italian convention was held in Visciano (Naples). In 2010 Italy took part in the WICC Ghent meeting. In the same year the ICPC Club Italia was born (<http://www.icpc-italia.org>). The ICPC-2 R book was translated into Italian in 2011 and officially presented at the 2nd ICPC Club Italia convention held in Ferrara (Italy) in 2011 and in Barcelona during the 39th WICC meeting.

Progress in 2012:

There have been several attempts, but small progress in bringing ICPC-2 forward in Italy. In our country there are 54,000 GPs but only 200/300 of them use the ICPC for research and only 20 collect the Episode of Care. Most of these GPs still use ICPC-1 and codify only diagnoses. Actually there are five home-made EHRs that integrate ICPC 1/2R for research purposes and there is also an attempt on using ICPC as coding system for the Triage record in an Emergency Room, but data are not available yet.

A not completed ICPC-2 R-ICD9-CM-ICD10 conversion has been made to allow ICPC users to share primary health care medical informations with the secondary health care. The Regional Health Board of Emilia Romagna in collaboration with Philadelphia Jefferson University Medical School have organized an electronic recording system in order to monitor the didactic activity during family medicine tutorship. ICPC has been selected to describe the work of a family medicine. This is an ongoing project. Another project is to develop a tool (hope in collaboration to the Transform project) to allow Italian GPs, interested in collecting the Episode of Care using ICPC, to have the possibility to better work in this direction. We are also trying to translate the Dutch ICPC Thesaurus in order to have another important tool to best improve the use of the ICPC in Italian primary care.

During the last two years the Ministry of Health is investing a lot on healthcare research and innovation and, with the help of the National Council of Research and other research institutes, is trying to improve the practice of registering and encoding primary care encounters and provide new solutions for GPs. Last year a study on the use and the quality of classification systems (taking into account also ICPC) in primary care was conducted in three Regions, and these year a research project that include the transcoding between ICPC2, ICD9-CM, and ICD10 Italian and the development of a multi-register interface terminology for the General Practice mapped to all these systems has been approved.

Regards

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