

COUNTRY REPORT

FINLAND

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Tuija Savolainen
Mårten Kvist

[National eServices](#) (ePrescription, eArchive and citizens' My Health Information) are gradually proceeding in Finland. [Electronic prescriptions](#) are issued throughout Finland, with the exception of Åland, but the implementation of [eArchive](#) seems to be falling behind the official timeframe at this point¹. The national patient data management service ("patient summary") is challenged with the official timeframe as well, and may be at first launched containing the information on patient consents to disclose the information and the possible refusals of disclosure only. The citizens can view their own information stored in the Prescription Centre via a citizens' online service (My Health Information), and later on information stored in eArchive as well.

ICPC has a status of one of the [official classifications](#) used to code data in the national eServices, and it is used to code health problems/diagnoses. ICPC-2 v.4.0 FIN (fin & swe) is distributed via the National Code Server administered by the National Institute of Social Welfare and Health (THL), in co-operation with the National Social Security Institute (KELA). ICPC-2 v. 4.2 FIN (fin & swe) will be published within the next months. Many GPs favor to use ICD-10, but it seems that coding diagnoses is more comprehensive whenever ICPC is used as the main option of coding diagnoses. A growing number of nurses, health nurses, physiotherapists etc. are using ICPC as well. The National Institute of Social Welfare and Health (THL) is collecting data on health problems/diagnoses on a daily basis from primary care and reporting them [on web](#). The quality of data and the application used for reporting need to be improved though, in order to enhance the usability of data for clinical and secondary purposes.

The Finnish and Swedish versions of ICPC-2 are maintained, in Finland, [by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities](#), based on the agreement on national license with WONCA. The new Steering Committee for ICPC, hosted by the Association, has started its work in the beginning of the year, and it will continue promoting the usage of ICPC-2. ICPC-related news are shared on [ICPC-website](#) (in Finnish and Swedish only). The concept of episode in the context of nationally uniform electronic health records has been accepted in the first place but needs to be clarified and further discussed. The interest in using ICPC in emergency units and ambulance services has increased at least to a certain extent. A case-mix system for better management and as well as the financing/budgeting etc. purposes, the Finnish Primary Care Diagnosis Related Grouping, pDRG has been developed and piloted and will be taken in production in the beginning of next year.

¹ As designated by a decree, all the public health care organizations are to join eArchive at latest on 1st of September 2014.