

WICC report Malta 2016

The Malta College of Family Doctors continues to recommend ICPC as the standard classification for family doctors in Malta, and some local doctors and family medicine trainees use ICPC for research and data analysis in Malta. Some local papers in both the College and general medical journals have used ICPC for research.

The Mediterranean Institute of Primary Care, based in Malta, continues to promote the use of ICPC-2 and the English version of the Dutch ICPC-ICD-10 Thesaurus in Malta and the Mediterranean, and supports users of the electronic patient record (Transhis). MIPC has been a partner in EU funded projects such as TRANSFoRm, and has managed to include the Reason for Encounter, the Episode of Care and the use of ICPC for the study of the process of diagnosis in primary care firmly within the European Commission's funded primary care research stream. In 2016, we are participating in a call in the UK which shall involve cancer research and use ICPC concepts to capture the reason for encounter and diagnosis in cancer encounters, to help improve decision support for cancer care. MIPC has funded work in Italy to update the ICPC-ICD-10 Dutch Thesaurus, including revising and checking the ICPC-ICD mapping, updating it till 2015, producing a new Thesaurus data-file, and eventually a new Thesaurus installable.

In the last year the Transition Project in Malta has continued, and now data is available regarding 14 years of ICPC-2 data from five practices. The database is an important part of the International Transition Project, a unique database exploring the epidemiology of family medicine in participant countries, and has supported the development of a diagnostic decision support system available for family doctors within the TRANSFoRm project. The data have been published and are also part of the first family medicine doctoral thesis from Malta. A more recent version of "Top 20," Henk Lamberts' famous data analysis program, included as EFP with the CD ROM distributed with ICPC-2-R, has now been produced with more Dutch and Maltese data. It is available online, and access is free.

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