

Country report: WICC-related activities in United States
2017-2018

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The United States is a large and diverse country in terms of health care delivery, with a large commercial and private marketplace participating in development and implementation of technology solutions to support care.

There is slow progress on development and implementation of standards for data exchange. However, the US continues to support ICD-10-CM as the standard format for classification and coding of diagnostic (“problem list”) information in electronic health records, as well as for coding of social problems included in electronic health records. A few academic primary care leaders, and a very few leaders of primary care policy organizations, have explored the use of ICPC as a ‘back room’ translation tool to better classify primary care diagnostic content and reduce ‘pseudoprecision’ and error in large data sets, but this work has not progressed beyond the talk stage as far as I am aware.

There appears to be no active work to include ICPC as an option in terminologies/lexicons used in primary care EHRs. The ADFM/NAPCRG Health Information Technology Task Force of which I am a member published review and position papers advocating for primary care functionality in EHRs in 2014 and 2015, followed by a position paper on a primary care data model in 2015; these publications have been used for advocacy since that time with little apparent impact.

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There is increasing interest in capturing social information in medical care records, with multiple demonstrations underway in many states, but there has been no organized work to adopt – or develop - standards for classification of social problems to enable accurate capture and use of data on social problems that impact health care delivery. I have been part of pilot efforts in Michigan to develop and test an approach for classification/coding of social problems that can be employed across all sectors of a community (health care, community social services sector, schools, public health) to track and assess outcomes of social care interventions. We have explored extending ICD-10-CM or employing ICPC for this use. This work is just underway and at this point it is not clear which approach will be taken.