Härkönen Mikko   3.7.2018

To WONCA/WICC Governance Committee

Usage of ICPC in Finland in 2018

The national license of ICPC has been transferred to the National Institute for Health and Welfare[1] (THL), confirmed by an e-mail from Dr Garth Manning, WONCA, March 2017.

THL and the Association of the Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (KL) has negotiated, agreed updating and managing national expert group of ICPC. The agreement has traditionally been renewed annually. Support for the users of ICPC has been a responsibility of KL[2], though. KL also hosts the ICPC Expert Group in Finland.

The coverage of EHR in primary and secondary care is extensive in Finland. The majority of public and private providers have joined the Kanta services. Kanta produces digital services for the social welfare and a healthcare sector. Users of the Kanta services include citizens, pharmacies, healthcare services and social welfare services. Kanta servicers form a unique service concept: My Kanta Pages for citizens, Prescription service (all prescriptions are issued electronically and all prescriptions are issued and dispensed via the Kanta services. The obligation to issue prescriptions in electronic format became effective on 1 January 2017.), Pharmaceutical Database (necessary information about medicines, their price and reimbursement status in terms of issuing and dispensing, and about interchangeable medicines), Patient Data Repository (key role in sharing information between healthcare service providers, system used with the patient data system. It allows centralized archiving of electronica patient data, as well as active use and storage of the data), Archiving of old patient data (The Patient Data Repository has a permit for electronic retention of records issued by the National Archives Service of Finland, and the permit also applies to the archiving of old data. After successful recording, old data may be removed from the source system and stored only in electronic format in the Patient Data Repository), Client data archive for social welfare services (an information system for social welfare services, used with the client data system. It allows centralized archiving of electronic client data in social welfare services and the active use and storage of data. The first social welfare service providers have started using the archive in 2018), Sharing of medical certificates (in the Kanta service, certificates and report issued by healthcare professionals can be forwarded electronically to Kela for benefit processing), Kelain (a doctor or dentist can issue a prescription in the online service on the basis of their professional practice rights). Kanta services is now widely used by citizens and the public and the private sector as well.

Prehospital care (first aid and paramedic in the near future) and national 116117 Helpline (piloting 2018) have started to use ICPC in their EHR-system. ICPC is used in primary care mostly by nurses, physiotherapists, etc. and by GPs in some organizations and regions to enter data on health problems/diagnoses.

Specifications for EHR-systems, patient record entries etc. are published or updated nationally. Almost 600 different classifications and code-sets are distributed in national social and health care codeserver in order to improve the interoperability of EHR-systems. The interoperability is enhanced by legislation.[3]

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[1] https://www.thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en
[2] https://www.kommunforbundet.fi/sakkunnigtjanster/social-och-halsovard/informationshantering/nomenklaturer-och-klassifikationer/icpc-2-den-internationella-primarvardsklassifikationen (in Swedish)
[3] http://91.202.112.142/codeserver/

www.thl.fi

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ICPC-2 v.5.0 FIN (fin & swe) is published and distributed via the national codeserver[4]. It is also important part of defining and documenting reasons for encounter (RFE) in primary health care.

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[4] https://thl.fi/en/web/information-management-in-social-welfare-and-health-care/standardisation-of-data-and-requirements/code-service

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