

WICC country report for Malta 2018

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. However, the Maltese Government seems to have bought a licence for Snomed, and ICD-10 is the classification used by the health authorities officially.

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 a small but important user group of the electronic patient record (Transhis).

In the last years the Transition Project in Malta has continued, and now data is available regarding 12 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 were also part of the first family medicine doctoral thesis from Malta.

MIPC has funded work by the Centrale Nazionale delle Ricerche, in the person of WICC member Elena Cardillo, to update the ICPC-ICD-10 Thesaurus published with the ICPC-2-R book. This will bring the ICPC-2 ICD-10 mapping up to date and will add new terms linked to both classifications. The work is nearing completion and should be put on the web in collaboration with a commercial website programming company.

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. A new proposal to Cancer Research UK for funding research into the predictive symptoms of cancer and diagnostic decision support has been accepted and work has begun this may. This will be driven by ICPC-2 unique concepts.

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Malta 2018