

**ICHPPC-2 (INTERNATIONAL
CLASSIFICATION OF HEALTH
PROBLEMS IN PRIMARY CARE)
2ND EDITION**

*Prepared by the World
Organization of National Colleges,
Academies and Academic
Associations of General
Practitioners/Family Physicians
(WONCA).*

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The urge to phoneticize a set of initials is almost irresistible and when this is done to the International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care the result is 'Itchpick', an inelegant description of an extremely elegant classification which should always be honoured with its full title, or abbreviated to ICHPPC.

The taxonomy of phenomena observed in general practice began with the Records and Statistics Unit of the College, and after an attempt at a hierarchical classification which nobody could be persuaded to use, a short-list of the International Classification was decided upon. This underwent further changes to make it more effective for its purpose—the study of various aspects of practice in the United Kingdom.

In 1972, the Conference of the World Organization of National Colleges and Academies of General Practice

(WONCA—acronyms seem inescapable) realized that this classification could be the basis of a truly international system which could be strictly related to the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)*. A working party was set up, and how that party worked!

It is unusual for international affairs to go smoothly but representatives of 14 countries made common ground and field-tested a short-list of the ICD. The working party became the Classification Committee of WONCA and was able to introduce ICHPPC-1 in Mexico City in 1974.

The present volume comprises ICHPPC-2, further evolutionary improvements made necessary by changes in the ICD itself. The Classification will be reviewed and brought up to date with every future revision of the ICD.

It must not be thought that the WONCA team is resting on its laurels, for it is working hard on definitions which can be applied to the rubrics in ICHPPC, and so make this the most specific and precise instrument of its kind that has ever been devised.

Many research workers in the UK will have accustomed themselves to using the ICHPPC in parallel with the College Classification, which it will ultimately replace. Those unfamiliar with the research work of the College may also take some pride in the development which its offspring has undergone.

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