Contacts for the Wonca International Classification Committee

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World Organization of Family Doctors

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PRIMARY CARE VERSION 2 (ICPC-2)

Produced by the

Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC)

The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC)

The International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) broke new ground in the world of classification when Wonca, the World Organisation of Family Doctors, first published it in book form in 1987. For the first time health care providers could classify, using a single classification, three important elements of the health care encounter: reasons for encounter (RFE) in the patient's view, assessment (diagnoses or problems) labelled in the health care provider's perspective, and process of care (decision, action, or plans). Linkage of elements permits categorisation from the beginning of the encounter with RFE to its conclusion, as well as a dynamic arrangement of encounters into episodes.

Because it reflects the essential elements of each patient/provider encounter, and allows for the description of episodes of care, ICPC fully supports the use of problem-oriented clinical records.

Since publication ICPC has received increasing world recognition as an appropriate and *comprehensive* classification for general/family practice and primary care, and has been used extensively in some parts of the world, notably in Europe and Australia. The World Health Organization (WHO) has accepted ICPC as a WHO related classification to be used for health information registration in primary care.

ICPC has always been linked with the WHO International Classification of Diseases. ICPC-2 has been mapped to ICD-10 so that conversion systems can be used.

Initially published in English (the working language of the Committee), ICPC-2 has been translated into: Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian and Spanish.

If ICPC-2 is not already translated into your language and you wish to translate it, please contact WICC through Dr. Inge Okkes: inge.okkes@planet.nl

The Revised Second Edition of ICPC, called ICPC-2-R on the book cover, can be obtained from Oxford University Press (www.oup.com) or through a bookshop or web retailer such as amazon.com. The current electronic version of ICPC-2 is available at: http://www.kith.no/icpc-2-e

The electronic version of ICPC-2 can be used by family doctors in their electronic medical records. Individual family doctors and electronic medical record system developers should initially contact the WICC member in their region for information and advice. See:
 http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/wicc/members.html.

If formal licence arrangements are required contact:
Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, The Philippines, Vietnam and Pacific Island Countries: Family Medicine Research Centre, University of Sydney. email: icpc@fmrc.org,au
Belgium: Commission "Norms for Telematics in relation to the Health Sector". email: marc.bangels@health.fgov.be
Norway: Norwegian Centre for Informatics in Health and Social Care. email: jim.yang@kith.no
All other countries: Wonca's CEO Dr. Alfred Loh. email: ceo@wonca.com.sg

ICPC Structure

ICPC has a biaxial structure with 17 **chapters** on one axis and seven **components** on the other.

Chapters are based on body systems with an additional chapter for psychological problems and one for social problems. Each chapter is identified by a single alpha code which is the first character of all rubrics in that chapter.

Each chapter is divided into seven **components**, identified by a range of two digit numeric codes which are, where possible, uniform across chapters.

Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC)

WICC is the committee in Wonca responsible for ICPC. It has been active since 1972. It has 41 members from 25 different countries.

The aim of WICC is to:

"Develop, update and distribute systems which enable international communication about the work with patients in general/family practice."

The two most important tasks are development and translation of the International Classification of Primary Care and the Wonca Dictionary of General/Family Practice.

Further information about ICPC-2 can be found at WICC's website: www.GlobalFamilyDoctor.com/wicc

Copies of the Wonca Dictionary can be obtained from: http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/wicc/dict.html

Further information about WICC can be obtained from the Chair:

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