

ICPC in South Africa 2018

Work on ICPC dates from the 1970s with South Africans part of WICC and its origins but ICPC is used only marginally in South Africa. The government did not purchase a licence for ICPC despite interest in post-apartheid South Africa. There is limited knowledge of ICPC amongst NGOs, Government and the private sector.

All eight departments of family medicine across South Africa teach ICPC to undergraduates and postgraduates. This has produced some useful data to understand primary care in South Africa. This data has also been reflected on in the popular South African Handbook of Family Medicine. There has also been some good work on morbidity surveys across South Africa despite the difficulty of using ICPC with limitations around HIV-related conditions.

ICPC (with Plus) is embedded in the HealthOne electronic health record software (Company: Medemass) commonly used in South Africa, however clinical users do not activate it because of ignorance. This software is also now being used in the public service in Johannesburg.

ICPC is now being linked to National Health Insurance (NHI) work, including work by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) on the Services Benefit Package for the NHI where ICPC is included with ICD10 coding. There is also recognition of the value of ICPC by the Private Health Information Services Consortium (PHISC) and a willingness to explore its value in South Africa. It is an advisory body but significant for standards development in South Africa, especially for electronic health records.

Recent SA Literature

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