



WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in South Africa: 2016 report

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8-12 October 2016
Tokyo, Japan

Poster Number
WHO/CTS to insert

Abstract The WHO-FIC collaborating centre in South Africa (WHO-FIC SA) has been redesignated for four years until January 2020. WHO-FIC SA activities support the development, implementation and maintenance of the WHO-FIC in South and Southern Africa and internationally; and the strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in WHO/AFRO. Networks of stakeholders remain the most important mechanism for the promotion of WHO-FIC activities.

Introduction

The base of activities of the WHO-FIC collaborating centre in South Africa (WHO-FIC SA) remains the Burden of Disease Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC BoDRU). Contact is maintained with colleagues in other institutions and structures involved in the development, implementation and use of the WHO-FIC, mainly in South Africa but also in other countries in the WHO/AFRO region, and with the relevant structures in WHO.

The range of activities of colleagues associated with WHO-FIC SA relates to most components of the WHO-FIC: ICD-10 and ICF development, implementation and use; and the development of ICD-11 and ICHI. Current participation in WHO-FIC structures is strongest in the FDRG (Functioning and Disability Reference Group) (secretariat and active membership), the FDC (Family Development Committee) (co-chair), the URC (Update Reference Committee) (co-chair), the MRG (Mortality Reference Group) and in the WHO-FIC Council and Council SEG (Small Executive Group). Support for the strengthening of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is given through WHO/AFRO where possible.

WHO-FIC SA benefits from the ongoing contributions of colleagues in a wide range of organisations and roles, who are committed to the effective use of the WHO-FIC in support of excellent health care. Due to resource limitations and the focus on redesignation processes, there have been only limited activities specifically convened by the collaborating centre during the reporting period.

WHO-FIC SA redesignation

The redesignation of WHO-FIC SA for a further four years, until January 2020, is a major milestone for the Centre. WHO-FIC SA is headed jointly by Lyn Hanmer and Debbie Bradshaw of the SAMRC. Both have been actively involved in the Centre since the commencement of the processes that led to the hosting of the WHO-FIC 2011 meetings in South Africa, and the first designation early in 2012.

WHO-FIC SA overview

Activities included in the Centre workplan are consistent with the WHO-defined terms of reference for WHO-FIC collaborating centres, as reflected in the activities which have been identified for the current designation period:

1. Support revision of ICD.
2. Support updating and maintenance of ICD-10- and ICF.
3. Support development and dissemination of WHO-FIC implementation and education tools.
4. Support development of ICHI.
5. Support ICD and ICF training and implementation in WHO/AFRO.
6. Establish and maintain a network of WHO-FIC stakeholders in WHO/AFRO.
7. Support ICD and ICF training and implementation at national level in South Africa.

Colleagues from the following institutions and organisations are associated with the Centre:

- University of Cape Town
- National Department of Health, South Africa
- Statistics South Africa (StatsSA)
- Stellenbosch University
- University of the Witwatersrand
- Private Healthcare Information Standards Committee.

ICF-related activities

Members of the FDRG and the URC from South Africa, including the URC co-chair for ICF and the FDRG secretary, contribute significantly to the ICF activities of the WHO-FIC.

The inputs from South Africa to the mICF project (mobile ICF; described in separate reporting) reflect the necessity for international projects to take account of as wide a range of requirements as possible, especially including developing environments, to ensure effective design.

Reports and publications about ongoing ICF training and related research activities, within South Africa and elsewhere in the WHO African Region, provide essential insights into the implementation of the ICF in low-resource settings.

ICD-related activities

ICD-10 is the national standard for diagnosis coding for South Africa, for morbidity and mortality. WHO-FIC SA has representation on related national committees related in both the public and private sectors.

StatsSA, the South African national statistics authority, continues with efforts to improve the quality of Cause of Death coding from routine death registration, including the use of automated coding tools. BoDRU research studies provide the platform for promoting the effective implementation of ICD-10 for mortality coding, and its use in sophisticated analysis and modelling of the available data on mortality in South Africa. BoDRU researchers have been invited to participate in WHO consultations related to the strengthening of CRVS, especially in low-resource settings.

Coding and clinical experts from South Africa contribute to the development of ICD-11 through multiple structures and activities, including:

- Membership of several ICD-11 TAGs; and
- Participation in the ICD-11 review process.

Experts are being sought to contribute to the definition of requirements for and testing of ICD-11 for Primary Health Care (PHC) settings.

Conclusions

WHO-FIC SA remains dependent on co-ordination among and liaison with networks of stakeholders in order to support the development and implementation of the WHO-FIC in the African region. Opportunities for expanding WHO-FIC SA activities continue to be sought.

Acknowledgements

Financial support for core WHO-FIC SA activities is provided by the South African Medical Research Council. The ongoing inputs and support of colleagues in various organisations and institutions associated with WHO-FIC SA, and WHO colleagues, are gratefully acknowledged.