WHO-FIC NETWORK MEETING

Tokyo, Japan
16-22 October 2005

Annual Report 2005 of the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries

Martti Virtanen, Head of Centre
Kristina Bränd Persson, Assistant Head of Centre

Abstract

The Centre represents the Nordic countries in international activities related to maintenance, use and development of health related classifications, notably the WHO Family of International Classifications with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases (ICD), the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and other members. The Nordic Centre actively participates in and supports the WHO-FIC Network in coordination, use and development of the international health related classifications in the Nordic region.

At the Nordic level, the main task of the Centre is to co-ordinate the development and use of the Family of International Classifications and other health related classifications used in the Nordic countries. This task includes: updating of the classifications in a unified manner in the Nordic countries, co-ordination of the application, education, tools, research and development of the classifications and distribution of information. The Nordic Centre has the main responsibility for maintenance, development and coordinated use of the Nordic classifications NCSP (NOMESCO Classification of Surgical Procedures), NCECI (NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injury) and the Nordic DRG/casemix system, NordDRG. The Centre supports further development of international collaboration in classifications.

Content

Abstract 1

Annual Report 2005 of the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries 3

- Board and Management 3
- Expert Advisers and Reference Groups 3

WHO-FIC COLLABORATION AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES 4

- WHO-FIC Network Meeting 2004 4
- ICD-10 update process 4
- Mortality coding and mortality statistics 4
- Hospital Data Working Group 5
- Revision Trial for Evaluation of Clinical Topics: External Causes 5
- ICF 5
- WONCA/WICC 5

Semantic Mining 6
NORDIC ACTIVITIES 6
NOMESCO Classification of Surgical Procedures (NCSP) 6
NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries (NCECI) 6
Mortality coding seminars 7
ICF Network 7
Nordic DRG system - NordDRG 8
Terminology 8
Co-operation with NOMESCO 8
References 9

Annual Report 2005 of the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries

The Nordic Centre for the Classification of Diseases was instituted as a WHO Collaborating Centre in 1987. In 2003 the Centre was renamed the Nordic Centre for Classifications in Health Care, as part of the Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala University, Sweden. The Centre is mainly financed by the national health administrations in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) which also appoints the Board of the Centre. The current contracts cover the period 2003-2006. The centre was redesignated as a WHO-FIC Collaborating centre in September 2004.

Address: Nordic Centre for Classifications in Health Care, Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala Science Park, SE-751 85, Uppsala, Sweden; e-mail: adm@nordclass.uu.se; website: http://www.nordclass.uu.se/

Board and Management

The Board of the Nordic Centre has the following members:

Denmark: Ole B Larsen, National Board of Health
Finland: Matti Ojala, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (Stakes)
Iceland: Sveinn Magnusson, Ministry of Health and Social Security (Chair)
Norway: Asbjørn Haugsbø, Directorate of Health and Social Welfare
Sweden: Lars Berg, National Board of Health and Welfare

Dr Martti Virtanen, MD, MSc, Finland, was appointed Centre Head in 2003. The permanent staff located in Uppsala consists of Ms Kristina Bränd Persson, Assistant Centre Head, and Project Assistants Ms Gunilla Pettersson and Ms Awring Koyi.

Expert Advisers and Reference Groups

The Centre engages Expert Advisers for classifications in different areas: Mr Lars Age Johansson of the Swedish National Board of Health of Welfare in the area of *mortality statistics*, Dr Glen Thorsen from the Norwegian Centre for Informatics in Health and Social Care for the *classification of surgical procedures*, Dr Birthe Frimodt-Møller from the Danish National Institute of Public Health for *classification of external causes of injury*, Mrs Seija Talo, PhD, Finland, as consultant on *ICF matters*, prof. emer. Björn Smedby, Sweden, as senior *medical classification* expert and Dr Olafr Steinum, Sweden, on *ICD and DRG issues*.

The Expert Advisers work closely with three main Nordic reference groups: The Reference group for Nordic classification matters (ICD related and derived classifications, procedures and interventions, health statistics, terminology), the DRG Expert Network, and the Reference group for ICF. An existing Nordic terminology network is planned to become affiliated to the Centre from 2005.

The representatives of the groups are appointed by the national authorities in the Nordic countries. The reference groups convene twice a year and individual members participate in WHO-FIC related activities, including education and development work, as well as regular maintenance of Nordic classifications.

WHO-FIC COLLABORATION AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

WHO-FIC Network Meeting 2004

The Nordic Centre hosted the WHO-FIC Network Meeting 2004 in Reykjavík, Iceland. In addition to the Nordic Centre staff, participating expert advisers were: Mr Lars Age Johansson, Dr Glen Thorsen, Prof Björn Smedby, Dr Gunnar Schiøler, Mrs Seija Talo, Dr Olafr Steinum, Dr Birthe Frimodt-Møller. Board members present were Sveinn Magnusson, Matti Ojala, Lars Berg and Asbjørn Haugsbø. In addition to the Annual Reports from the Nordic Centre (1) and the Mortality Forum (2), the Nordic Centre presented a Progress report from the subcommittee on hospital discharge data (3), ATC/DDD submission to the WHO-FIC (4) and ICF – a frame to develop aspects in knowledge management in social and health care (5). Discussion and planning of an update and revision process for ICD-10 to ICD-11 was a main theme of the 2004 WHO-FIC meeting. All meeting documents are available at the meeting website: http://www.nordclass.uu.se/WHOFIC/reykjavik.htm

ICD-10 update process

The procedure for updating ICD-10 includes the preparation of proposals by the Update Reference Committee (URC). Martti Virtanen, Lars Age Johansson, Glen Thorsen (2004) and Olafr Steinum (2005) are Nordic representatives on the Committee. The URC update proposals are also noted in the Reference group for Nordic classification matters. Out of 72 update proposals 54 were accepted by the WHO-FIC meeting to be implemented in 2005 (minor) and 2006 (major).

Mortality coding and mortality statistics

On behalf of the WHO-FIC Network the Nordic Centre maintains an international electronic discussion group, the Mortality Forum, for issues related to mortality coding. The discussion group currently has more than 100 members, representing some thirty different countries and organisations. A compilation of the problems discussed in the Mortality Forum as well as a description of the activities of the Mortality Forum are regularly presented at the WHO-FIC annual meetings. Unresolved issues are forwarded to the Mortality Reference Group, chaired by Lars Age Johansson. Lars Age Johansson is also on the International Collaborative Effort on Automating Mortality Statistics (ICE-AMS) planning committee and is a member of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) expert panel on European statistics for drug-related deaths. Mr Johansson regularly conducts Nordic and Baltic coding seminars and provides support for the

implementation of automated coding systems on national level.

Hospital Data Working Group

On behalf of the Nordic Centre, Prof Björn Smedby has led a working group under the Family Development Committee during 2003-2005. The group is to collect data from WHO-FIC countries according to a new list of selected diagnoses with the aim to analyse the comparability of international hospital discharge data and variation in coding practice. The work is a follow-up to the Hospital Data Project under the EU Health Monitoring Programme in which Prof Smedby and a working party developed a diagnosis shortlist based on analysis of discharge data from several European countries. The list is based on the main condition as defined in ICD-10. The shortlist has preliminary been adopted by WHO, OECD, Eurostat and NOMESCO for hospital activity statistics. Progress reports have been presented at the WHO-FIC meetings in 2002-2004.

Revision Trial for Evaluation of Clinical Topics: External Causes

At the WHO-FIC meeting in 2004, the Nordic Centre agreed to take the lead for one of the pilot trials for selected clinical topics, External causes of injury (ICD-10 Chapter XX). A common pilot evaluation scheme was decided in February 2005. The Nordic Centre arranged an international planning meeting in June 2005 in order to develop a preliminary work plan. Minutes from the meeting are available in the WHO-FIC Collaborative Workspace. A progress report is to be presented to the WHO-FIC meeting in 2005.

ICF

The Nordic Centre participates in the WHO-FIC committees work related to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. As a follow up from the 2003 Network meeting, a project started in 2004 to develop a plan for international collection and exchange of information regarding ICF qualifiers. Seija Talo and Matti Ojala, Finland have had the main responsibility for this project together with Martti Virtanen. The plan is to have a comprehensive and systematic approach to information exchange aiming to clarify the use of ICF and ICF qualifiers in various applications. This work is to support the implementation of ICF and to assist further development work within the WHO-FIC Network. This task is directly associated with the work plan of the WHO-FIC Implementation Committee as well as the Education Committee. A draft report for discussion is to be presented in 2005.

WONCA / WICC

Martti Virtanen is a member of the WONCA International Classification Committee, WICC. A joint WHO-FIC/WICC working party continues to analyse the relationship between WHO-FIC members and ICPC.

Semantic Mining

Since 2004, the Centre participates in a Network of Excellence for Semantic Interoperability and Data Mining in Biomedicine under the EU 6th framework programme on Information Society Technologies (IST).

NORDIC ACTIVITIES

NOMESCO Classification of Surgical Procedures (NCSP)

The English-language version of the NOMESCO Classification of Surgical Procedures (NCSP) has been updated annually by the Nordic Centre since 1996. The 10th revision will be in effect Jan, 2006. The Centre runs the NCSP Forum, a discussion group for general coding matters and update proposals from the Nordic countries. Glen Thorsen has the main responsibility for the preparation of update proposals to be considered by the Reference group for Nordic classification matters. The Board of the Centre formally decides on changes to be implemented in the Nordic common version of NCSP. NCSP-E is published by NOMESCO and is made available in digital form at the Nordic Centre website.

In 2004, the DRG Expert Network and the Reference group for Nordic classification matters initiated a joint project to further develop the NCSP by extending it to include non-surgical procedures. This process is closely linked to the current development in DRG for outpatient care and psychiatry in the Nordic countries as well as possible implementation of ICF. Structural comparisons of existing procedure classifications have started in 2005 together with analyses of the relationship with medical terminologies.

NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries (NCECI)

NOMESCO published the third revised edition of the NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries (NCECI) in 1997. Minor amendments have been introduced in the current version (3.1) available in digital form at the Centre website. A fourth revision of the NCECI is planned for 2005-2006, pending the international development in this field and further Nordic work. The Nordic Centre is responsible for maintenance and updating of NCECI with Expert Adviser Birthe Frimodt-Møller and the Nordic classification expert network to support update proposals.

A Nordic working party has worked on a development of the concept of 'injury mechanism', present in NCECI, ICECI and ICD-10, which currently is a mix of events leading to the actual mechanisms of injury. The proposal contains a refined model with a separate set of codes for each of the aspects 'deviation' (What went wrong?) and 'Mode of injury' (How was the injury sustained?). The model and preliminary test results were presented at the WHO-FIC Network Meeting 2004 (5).

Mortality coding seminars

In consultation with NOMESCO the Nordic Centre has arranged annual seminars for mortality coders in the Nordic and Baltic countries since 2001. The overall aim of these meetings is to improve the quality and comparability of Nordic-Baltic mortality statistics. Coding exercises with analyses of agreement between countries have been performed in conjunction with these meetings.

Since 2004 a new model for continuous quality control has been used. Several small samples of death certificates are analysed during each year instead of one large sample. This provides participating countries continuous assessment of coding practice against ACME which is used as the measuring standard. Samples are stratified by the number of conditions reported on the death certificate. Additional certificates of special interest are added on an ad hoc basis. Participating countries draw the sample by turns, and also provide an English translation. Certificates are run through ACME and the results are distributed by the Nordic Centre. In 2005-2005 this scheme has been successful and the method is expected to be improved further. An extension of the quality assurance programme to include other countries is possible.

ICF Network

The Nordic Centre established a Nordic reference group for ICF in 2001. This expert panel consists of country representatives previously involved in translation work as well as representatives from the authorities responsible for maintaining national classifications. This expert network supports continued Nordic co-operation in ICF matters.

Further development and support is needed for ICF to become useful and there is Nordic consensus that spedific guidelines are needed as a complement to the classification itself. Initial work on an English language guide to ICF adaptated to Nordic circumstances was eventually abandoned due to the need to prioritize the development of introductory guides in the national languages.

In 2004-2005, the main topics for the ICF reference group has been national ICF publications and introduction conferences, discussion of ICF qualifiers and existing measurement instruments, adaptation of local and national information systems for social welfare and health services to ICF concepts and terminology, development of cross-professional minimum (core) sets for different fields of application (e.g. care of the elderly), ICF and related interventions and procedures, and the development of ICF coding tools. An inventory of Nordic professional use of disease specific core sets and emerging multi- or cross-professional core sets in various fields of application is planned for 2005-2006.

In May 2005, the 4th Nordic-Baltic conference on ICF was held in Tallinn, Estonia. The main theme was examples of applications of ICF. Presentations at the conference can be downloaded from the meeting website:

http://www.nordclass.uu.se/conference/ICF/tallinn2005.htm

Nordic DRG system - NordDRG

The Nordic Centre runs Nordic co-operation in the area of Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG). The Nordic DRG system (NordDRG) is based on ICD-10 and the NOMESCO Classification of Surgical Procedures (NCSP) and was developed in co-operation between the Nordic health authorities and affiliated organizations. The Nordic Centre is responsible of maintenance and updating of NordDRG since 1996. In recent years the NordDRG System has been established as the main DRG-system in the Nordic countries, except Denmark, as a tool for benchmarking and for hospital financing purposes. The Nordic Centre has a bilateral agreement with the Estonian Health Insurance Fund regarding NordDRG use ans support in Estonia.

The NordDRG Forum discussion group allows for input from expert users and supports the work of the DRG Expert Network that prepares update proposals. The Steering group for NordDRG, representing the Nordic owners, is responsible for all decisions on changes to the system. Current development work concerns DRG's for hospital outpatient care (day surgery, day care), psychiatric care and rehabilitation. Co-ordination efforts for a common Nordic procedure and interventions classification are ongoing. The main responsibility for NordDRG system development lies with Martti Virtanen.

Terminology

In February 2005 the Centre held a meeting on "SNOMED in the Nordic countries" with the aim to map out current issues on terminological systems, specifically SNOMED in relation to health related classifications, and possibly to establish Nordic co-ordination. The immediate outcome was to establish a Nordic terminology network at the Nordic Centre and to investigate the possibilities to co-operate in the evaluation of SNOMED-CT.

Co-operation with NOMESCO

The Centre co-operates with NOMESCO (Nordic Medico-Statistical Committee) for the updating of Nordic classifications and regularly participates in seminars and publications by NOMESCO. Analyses of the content and quality of Nordic health statistics published annually by NOMESCO is a standing topic. Health Statistics in the Nordic Countries 2003 features a theme section on childrens health. The Nordic and Nordic-Baltic health statistics publications are available at the NOMESCO website: http://www.nom-nos.dk/NOMESCO.HTM

As part of its regular activities and in collaboration with NOMESCO, the Centre lends support to the Baltic countries' work on classifications, primarily by distributing information on Nordic and WHO-FIC activities and by providing expert advice in specific matters. In recent years, the Baltic countries have had special interest in ICF and DRG applications. The Nordic Centre welcomes collaboration with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as other countries.

References

1. Annual Report 2004 from the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries. (WHOFIC/04.007)
2. Annual report 2004 of the Mortality Forum. Lars Age Johansson. WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries, Uppsala University and EpC, National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden. (WHOFIC/04.018)
3. Report of the Hospital Data Working Group. Björn Smedby. WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries, Uppsala University, Sweden. (WHOFIC/04.045)
4. The use of the dagger-asterisk system in ICD-10 and ICD-9 and in national clinical modifications. Björn Smedby, Olafr Steinum & Martti Virtanen. WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries, Uppsala University, Sweden. (WHOFIC/04.079)
5. Development of "injury mechanism" in NOMESCO Classification of External Causes of Injuries (NCECI). Preliminary results. Nordic Workgroup: Kirsten Jørgensen, Matti Ojala, Brynjólfur Mogensen, Stefi Stabell Wetteland, Lars Berg, Anders Karlsson, Birthe Frimodt-Møller. WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries, Uppsala University, Sweden. (WHOFIC/04.050)
6. Use of ICF qualifiers - International collection and exchange of experiences. Seija Talo, Matti Ojala, Martti Virtanen. National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health (Stakes), Finland & WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications in the Nordic Countries, Uppsala University, Sweden. (WHOFIC/04.056)