

# Classifications, Nomenclatures and Thesauri

Statistically reliable data based on qualified classifications are essential for an efficiently regulated health care system. Appropriate classifications, nomenclatures and thesauri help to unite the various medical terms. Therefore, DIMDI has been assigned by the legislator to publish and maintain such systems of concepts. The institute cooperates with national and international institutions concerning those systems.

## International Classification of Diseases – ICD-10

The ICD-10 released by the World Health Organization (WHO) serves globally as a classification for diagnoses. It is the basis for internationally comparable mortality statistics. In Germany there are two versions of ICD-10 in use.

The German ICD-10-WHO published by DIMDI is a direct translation of the English version of WHO. It is used for encoding the mortality data for mortality statistics.

The ICD-10-GM (German modification) is adapted to the needs of the German health care system. It brings transparency into medical diagnoses and is used for the efficiency audit. Furthermore, it is the fundament for National Hospital Discharge Statistics and makes it possible to bill according to the G-DRG (German Diagnosis Related Groups) remuneration system. The German Modification is revised annually and can be obtained from DIMDI via download.

Additional aids support the ICD users:

- › The Alphabetical Index of the ICD-10 (diagnosis thesaurus)
- › Crosswalks for the transfer to new ICD versions
- › Update lists show what has changed
- › The flyer “Causes of Death on the Death Certificate” with the most important regulations on how to fill out a death certificate (in German)
- › The Basic Coding Knowledge booklet (in German)

You find all DIMDI classifications online: [www.dimdi.de](http://www.dimdi.de) – Classifications, Terminologies, Standards

## Operationenschlüssel – OPS

DIMDI also issues the „Operationenschlüssel“ (Classification of surgical and medical procedures). Updated versions can be downloaded annually.

Originally, OPS included only surgical procedures for statistics in hospitals and for the definitions of case based lump sums and procedural rates in the billing of in-patient benefits. All expense-related medical procedures in hospitals are coded and increasing also ambulant treatments. DIMDI offers application aids here as well:

- › The Alphabetical Index with more than 36,000 search items makes it easier to find procedures
- › Crosswalk tables and update lists make it easier to change from one version to the next

## Co-operation with the WHO

DIMDI is the German-language WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications and works close together with the WHO. »

» DIMDI is actively represented in several working groups of the WHO classification centres and is involved in the maintenance of the original ICD-10.

As a result of the close co-operation with the WHO, DIMDI also issues the ICD-O and the ICF.

## ICD-O-3

The ICD-O-3 is a special adaptation of the ICD-10 for the documentation of tumours: The site of a tumour can be coded with its location code, its histology and biological behaviour can be coded with the histology code.

The ICD-O is used in the cancer registries since the publication of the cancer registry law. The current version can be downloaded at DIMDI.

## ICF

With the rising life expectancy age, chronic illnesses and the treatment of persons with permanent defects become more important. The sole concept “disease” is no longer sufficient to describe the population’s state of health.

Therefore, in 2001, the WHO adopted the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

The ICF was translated by a working group of voluntary colleagues under the direction of Dr. Schuntermann from the Association of German Pension Insurers (VDR). The official version of the German-language ICF is available at DIMDI.

## National Board of Trustees for Questions of Classification

The National Board of Trustees for Questions of Classification (Kuratorium für Fragen der Klassifikation im Gesundheitswesen, KKG), whose agency is residing at DIMDI, administrates a central role in the classification questions. All important associates in the German health care system are represented in the KKG.

In January 2003, furthermore the German Centre for Medical Classification (DZMK) was established at DIMDI.

## UMDNS

The Medical Devices Act (MPG) prescribes a standardised nomenclature for medical devices. DIMDI issues the German version of the Universal Medical Device Nomenclature System (UMDNS). The English original was developed by ECRI, USA. The European Commission recommends the UMDNS within the Regulatory Data Exchange System as an interim nomenclature until the Global Medical Device Nomenclature GMDN is available in the major languages of the EU.

## MeSH

The Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) are a medical thesaurus published and annually updated by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). It is used for cataloguing library holdings and for indexing databases that are produced by the NLM (e.g. MEDLINE). Since a comparable German-language thesaurus was missing, DIMDI translated the MeSH and updates the translation annually.

## Iris Institute

The Iris Institute is an international cooperation for the deployment, maintenance and development of the Iris software: an electronic system for automated coding of causes of death.

The aim of Iris is twofold:

- » To provide a system in which the language-dependent aspects are separated from the software itself.
- » To improve international comparability.

Iris is based on the international death certificate form provided by WHO and the causes of death are coded according to the ICD-10 rules. Updates to ICD-10 are included according to the WHO-timelines. ■



*You find the special formats of the current classification versions (in German) online at DIMDI's Downloadcenter.*

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