

Classifications, Nomenclatures and Thesauri

Statistically reliable data based on qualified classifications are essential for an efficiently regulated Health Care System. Appropriate classifications help to unite the various medical terms. Therefore, DIMDI has been assigned by the legislator to publish and maintain such classifications.

International Classification of Diseases – ICD-10

The ICD-10 released by the World Health Organization (WHO) serves globally as a classification for diagnoses and is the basis for internationally comparable mortality statistics.

DIMDI issues the German version on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG). It brings transparency in the SHI sector 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 of the ICD-10 (ICD-10-GM) 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).
- › The Basic Coding Knowledge booklet (in German).
- › Crosswalks facilitate 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.

Operationenschlüssel – OPS

DIMDI also issues the „Operationenschlüssel“ (Classification of surgical and medical procedures) on behalf of the BMG. Updated versions can be downloaded annually and are available in book form.

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. Since the introduction of the German Diagnosis Related Groups (G-DRG) all expense-related medical procedures in hospitals are coded. DIMDI offers application aids here as well:

- › The Alphabetical Index with more than 70,000 search items makes it easier to find procedures.
- › Crosswalk tables and update lists make it easier to change from one version to the next.

UMDNS

The Medical Devices Act (MPG) prescribes a standardised nomenclature for medical devices. DIMDI issues the German version of the UMDNS nomenclature. The original English version was developed by ECRI, USA. In the near future, the UMDNS will be replaced by the Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN). »

You find all DIMDI classifications online under: www.dimdi.de-classification

DIMDI publishes special formats of ICD-10-GM, OPS and ICD-O-3 as well. You can order them online in the DIMDI Webshop.

Co-operation with the WHO

DIMDI, the German-language WHO Collaborating Centre for the Family of International Classifications, 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

As a result of medical progress and 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, administers 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.

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. ■

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