



World Health Organization

FAQ Licensing ICD-10

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I. What is ICD-10?

ICD-10 is the international standard diagnostic classification for all general epidemiological purposes, many health management purposes and clinical use. These include analysis of the general health situation of population groups and monitoring the incidence and prevalence of diseases, as well as other health problems with respect to variables such as the characteristics and circumstances of the individuals affected, reimbursement, case-mix, resource allocation, quality, patient safety, and guidelines.

ICD is used for health information purposes in public health, primary, secondary and tertiary care settings. In particular, it is used to classify diseases, accidents, reasons for encounter, and other health problems recorded on many types of health and vital records including death certificates and health records. In addition to facilitating the storage and retrieval of diagnostic information for clinical, epidemiological and quality purposes, the resulting records form the basis for compiling national mortality and morbidity statistics by WHO Member States. ICD serves a language-independent framework for classification of diseases.

ICD-10 consists of 3 volumes:

Volume 1: Tabular list

Volume 2: Instruction manual

Volume: Alphabetical index

WHO is the copyright holder of ICD-10, and can grant licences for the use of ICD-10 worldwide for commercial and non-commercial uses.

II. Does WHO own the copyright in ICD-9?

ICD-9 is in the public domain so there are no copyright restrictions over its use. WHO no longer publishes or distributes ICD-9.

III. How do I map ICD-9 to ICD-10?

The ICD-9 to ICD-10 translator is available in English and French:

- International classification of diseases translator: ninth and tenth revisions: user's guide to electronic tables
- Classification internationale des maladies convertisseur: neuvième et dixième révisions: guide d'utilisation des tableaux électroniques

The electronic files can be accessed at

<http://www.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/ClassificationDownload>

IV. What ICD-10 data files are available from WHO?

WHO distributes approximately 14,000 codes and titles for use by its licensees. The files that WHO can provide are in.csv format and are suitable for tabulation and display only, they cannot be used for coding a diagnosis. In the example below, the blue text (ICD-10 code and title) indicates the data that WHO is able to provide. The data does not include the exclusions, inclusions and supplementary information in the Tabular List or the index terms in the alphabetical index (red text).

C00 Malignant neoplasm of lip

Excludes: skin of lip (C43.0 , C44.0)

C00.0 External upper lip

Upper lip:

- NOS
- lipstick area
- vermilion border

V. Where can I learn more about ICD-10 and how it is used?

An ICD-10 training tool is available online

<http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10training/>, designed for self-learning and classroom use. The training tool is also available on CD-ROM and can be purchased at WHO online bookstore <http://apps.who.int/bookorders>

VI. Where can I buy ICD-10 products?

WHO has developed the ICD-10 printed and electronic manuals which have been designed for coders and are available separately. These can be purchased at WHO online bookstore <http://apps.who.int/bookorders>

VII. Is there an online version if ICD-10?

A browser version of ICD-10 is freely available on the WHO web site for users to search and retrieve ICD-10 data: <http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online/>. This uses the full alphabetical index.

VIII. How can I translate ICD-10 into my local language?

ICD-10 is available in the six official languages of WHO (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) in print, however only the English and French versions are available in database format. For the Spanish version, please contact WHO regional office of the Americas (AMRO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington DC at pubrights@paho.org

ICD-10 has also been translated into many other languages. WHO does not publish these language version and cannot authorize the use of these language versions. If you wish to obtain any of these language versions, you need to contact the relevant authorities. A list of the available languages can be accessed here <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/ICD-10%20languages.pdf>. If your local language is not in the list, please contact licensing@who.int to obtain further information.

IX. What types of licences are available from WHO and how do I apply for a licence?

WHO is able to grant licenses to companies/organizations for the right to use ICD-10 for commercial, non-commercial/research and internal purposes.

Licensing WHO classifications for commercial use

WHO is able to issue commercial licences to companies wishing to incorporate and distribute WHO classifications in their software products for sale to customers in certain countries.

- The licence is non-exclusive, non-transferable and time limited.
- The licence authorizes the use of the codes and descriptions in a product that will be distributed to customers in specific countries.
- Licensees are not permitted to modify, translate or amend the codes or descriptions of the classification in any way.
- There should be no suggestion of endorsement of the product or the company by WHO.

Companies wishing to obtain a commercial licence are asked to complete the following http://www.who.int/about/licensing/licence_request_form/en/index.html so that the proposed use of the classifications and the type of product are evaluated.

Licensing WHO classifications for internal use within your organization

WHO is able to issue internal licences to organizations wishing to incorporate WHO classifications into their internal information systems for use by employees for use for administrative purposes eg. health records management.

Companies wishing to obtain an internal licence are asked to provide the following information and send this to licensing@who.int

- Name and address of organization.
- Name and job title of person signing the licence.
- Name of the organization's information system in which ICD-10 will be incorporated
- A short summary of the intended use of WHO classifications within your organisation's information systems. Please include a selection of screen shots from the product that illustrate how WHO classifications is used in the product. This information will not be used by WHO for any purpose other than compiling data on the use of WHO classifications and shall not be transmitted outside of WHO.
- Number of concurrent users accessing WHO classifications within the organization.

Licensing WHO classifications for non-commercial use

If your organization is planning to use WHO classifications for non-commercial or research purposes, then you may qualify for a licence for non-commercial research use. [Register for non-commercial use](#)

X. Are there any national modifications of ICD-10?

The governments of certain countries have developed clinical modifications however, WHO is not responsible for these modifications. The authorities concerned should be contacted to obtain a licence for the use of the modifications:

US Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM / ICD-10-CM)

Contact: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm#10update>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd9.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd.htm>

US Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS)

Contact: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2014-ICD-10-PCS.html>

Canadian Enhancement (ICD-10-CA)

Contact: Canadian Institute for Health Information

<http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext->

[portal/internet/en/document/standards+and+data+submission/standards/classification+and+coding/codingclass_icd10](http://www.cihi.ca/cihi-ext-portal/internet/en/document/standards+and+data+submission/standards/classification+and+coding/codingclass_icd10)

ccicd-10@cihi.ca

Australian Modification ICD-10-AM

Contact: National Casemix and Classification Centre (NCCC)

<http://nccc.uow.edu.au/icd10am-achi-acs/overview/icd10am/index.html>

Swiss Modification

Contact: Federal Statistical Office

Federal Department of Home Affairs

Espace de l'Europe 10

2010 Neuchatel

Switzerland

German Modification

Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information (DIMDI).

Classifications line: +49 221 4724-524

<http://www.dimdi.de/static/en/klassi/diagnosen/icd10/ls-icdhtml.htm>

Singapore Modification

MOH Holdings Pte Ltd
1 Maritime Square,
#11-25 Harbour Front Centre (Lobby C),
Singapore 099253

XI. Can I sell my product to the public and private sectors?

The UK and South African governments have an agreement with WHO, which allows the health authorities to issue ICD-10 licences to suppliers to the public sector. If you plan to sell your product to public sector only, you should contact the health authorities; if you intend to sell your products to non-public sector, then you will require a licence from WHO.

United Kingdom

Contact: The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)
<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/clinicalcoding/codingstandards/icd10>

South Africa

Contact: the Department of Health <http://www.doh.gov.za/>

For other countries, contact licensing@who.int