

Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Neurology

Second Edition



World Health Organization Geneva



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Preface

The Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Neurology (ICD-NA) is one of several adaptations of the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) being produced by the World Health Organization to respond to the needs of specialist disciplines such as neurology. A previous edition of ICD-NA was developed in 1984-85 with the help of a group of experts convened by Dr L. Bolis (International Foundation Fatebenefratelli, Milan, Italy), then in charge of activities dealing with the prevention and control of neurological disorders in WHO's Division of Mental Health (MNH). Taking into account the recommendations of this expert group and advice received from the Neuroepidemiology Group of the World Federation of Neurology, chaired by the late Professor B.S. Schoenberg (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD) and from other nongovernmental organizations, Professor J.-M. Orgogozo and Professor J.F. Dartigues (University of Bordeaux, France) drafted the text of the first edition in English and French. That edition provided an extensive selection, but a limited expansion, of the neurologically relevant codes of ICD-9. The present edition has been developed with the broader aim of providing an individual code for almost every neurological condition, so that a uniform classification is available for epidemiological and clinical research as well as for routine statistical reporting.

The synopsis of the second edition of ICD-NA was produced by Professor W.G. Bradley (University of Miami, Miami, FL), Professor J.-M. Orgogozo, Dr N. Sartorius (then Director of WHO's Division of Mental Health) and Dr J. van Drimmelen (WHO, Geneva, Switzerland). It was discussed with representatives of nongovernmental organizations active in the field of neurology and with experts in WHO and from various Member countries and then used as a framework for the development of the ICD-NA.

The initial draft of ICD-NA was produced by Professors Bradley and Orgogozo with the help of Dr van Drimmelen on the basis of the first edition and of detailed suggestions from the Ad Hoc Committee on Disease Classification of the American Neurological Association, chaired by Professor Bradley; in the Acknowledgements section (pages ix-xii), the names of the members of the committee are marked with an asterisk. The draft was examined by nongovernmental organizations active in the field of neurology (listed on page xi) and by numerous advisers. Their valuable comments contributed to the production of the penultimate version of ICD-NA, which was again reviewed by the participating nongovernmental organizations.

The final version reflects the best resolution of many, often competing, needs. It should be kept in mind that ICD-NA had to be based upon the structure of ICD-10. This has prevented the introduction of some changes that were recommended, but has ensured that all of the 5-, 6- and 7-character codes of the ICD-NA can be contracted back into the original 3- or 4-character codes of ICD-10; compatibility with the official classification can therefore be maintained, whatever the purpose or level of utilization.

The ICD-NA index was produced by Mr M. Catan and Dr van Drimmelen of WHO, using a preliminary partial draft produced by Drs H.J. Freyberger and C. Kessler (Lübeck, Germany), with extensive help from Mr A. L'Hours of WHO's Division of Health Situation and Trend Assessment. Guidance from Mr l'Hours also helped to ensure the congruence of ICD-NA with the parent ICD-10.

An outline of the history of the International Classification of Diseases, information on the structure of ICD-NA and instructions on its use are given in Sections I and II of this publication.

Dr N.P. Napalkov Assistant Director-General World Health Organization

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