

WHO-FIC Asia-Pacific Network (APN) Working Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: July 11 (Fri.), 2014 10:00-15:00

Place: Japan Hospital Association, 3rd floor, conference room

Participants (6): Hiroyoshi Endo, Sukil Kim (South Korea), Wansa Paoin (Thailand), Maliwan Yuenyongsuwan (Thailand), Joon Hong (South Korea), Yukiko Yokobori

1. APN Core Meeting at the WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting

The participants agreed to hold a lunch meeting of the APN on Tuesday, October 14, with Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, China, Malaysia, India, SEARO, WPRO, and the WHO headquarters as expected participants. Announcement about the lunch meeting will also be made to other APN members not designated as WHO-FIC Collaborating Centres. The agenda will provisionally include presentation of the ICD-10 APN simplified version and a call on other APN members to join the APN activities.

The participants also agreed to present a poster at the WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting. Dr. Paoin will also do a presentation at the Education and Implementation Committee (EIC), which is involved in ICD implementation. The poster will cover the APN's activities to date, the activities plan agreed to at the 6th APN meeting in Thailand, two subsequent working meetings held in Japan, and establishment of a system for the APN's cooperation in ICD-11 field trials. After the poster is completed, all APN members will be informed about the poster presentation.

2. Indonesia's proposal on hosting an APN meeting in November

Indonesia had offered to provide meeting space for the APN meeting in conjunction with another meeting scheduled there in November 2014. Some participants pointed out that the meeting would provide opportunities for briefing APN member countries about the field tests for the ICD-10 APN simplified version and for requesting their participation in the field tests. Others were opposed to Indonesia's proposal, as it did not meet the requirement that the host country invite and support participation by developing country members. Some expressed concern about the lack of synergy between the APN meeting and the main meeting, the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Health Research & Development, as participants to the latter were unlikely to be familiar with international classifications. Ms. Yuenyongsuwan said that the governments of member countries of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) have a budget for participating in meetings organized within the AEC region and that some APN member countries should be able to use that funding to take part in the Indonesia meeting. It

was decided that the secretariat will check with AEC member countries if it was feasible for them to attend the APN meeting if held in Indonesia in November. Ms. Hong also pointed out that Ms. Gemala Hatta of Indonesia might be able to cooperate in terms of funding, and it was decided that Ms. Hong would contact Ms. Hatta to check. It was also decided that the feasibility of organizing an APN meeting in Indonesia would be determined in the next two weeks.

3. APN meeting in 2015

The participants agreed that the secretariat should first check with Malaysia if it was willing to host an APN meeting in 2015. South Korea will also check with the South Korean WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre on whether South Korea would like to host the meeting in 2015. As a third alternative, the participants discussed the possibility of organizing the meeting in Cambodia, which had indicated interest in the ICD-10 APN simplified version in a preliminary survey by the APN secretariat. The participants discussed the advantages of holding the meeting in Cambodia, which, like Malaysia, offers a relatively easy access for its neighboring countries to participate and enables AEC countries to use AEC budgets to participate. The use of university or government facilities may cut down the costs of organizing a meeting in Cambodia. Siem Reap would be an ideal host city, which is about 4-hour drive by car from Bangkok, costing about \$30 for a one-way trip. A participant said that either July or August would be a good time for a meeting. It was decided that if Malaysia or South Korea is not interested in hosting an APN meeting in 2015, the secretariat will ask Cambodia if they would host it.

4. Development of a simplified core curriculum

The participants pointed out the need for basic education in classifications as a concrete challenge facing the Asia-Pacific region. Ms. Hong is teaching ICD-10 and ICD-O as a part of a program to train educators in Mongolia. In this light, it was decided to appoint Ms. Hong as a chief person responsible for developing a simplified core curriculum modeled on the education module of the WHO-FIC Education and Implementation Committee (EIC), as one of the three sets of tangible actions under the APN's strategic workplan. Ms. Hong will first prepare a draft based on the EIC's module, and then the draft will be fleshed out in future working meetings. It was decided to ask Dr. Syed Aljunid of Malaysia, who had shown interest in this topic, to join as a working group member.

5. Development of ICD-10 APN simplified version

Dr. Paoin reported on the current state and challenges in the development of the ICD-10 APN

simplified version. He first confirmed the following three development principles: (1) reduce the number of ICD codes, (2) eliminate complexities, and (3) instruct coders to refer to the original ICD-10 if a specific disease cannot be found in the simplified version. To eliminate complexities, pre-coordinated codes will consist of five characters at the most.

As for the current progress, Dr. Paoin reported that he had developed the following three basic structures from Chapter I: (1) a tabulation list, (2) an alphabetical index, and (3) a database table.

In the ensuing discussions, Dr. Paoin asked whether for those entities that are displayed as having “no simplified code” in the simplified version, there would be a need to provide some form of additional explanation. It was decided that a simple explanation should be added for the sake of user convenience. For example, the simplified version has no code for “A16 tuberculosis of lung.” The instruction, “refer to ICD-10,” will be added to help users.

Where necessary, the simplified version captures information on deleted codes through the use of the fourth-character codes “.8” and “.9.” It was agreed that rather than consolidate the use of the residual code to either one of “.8” or “.9,” both should be retained to respect the differences in meaning that these codes represented.

The participants also discussed whether to allow for the dual use of both the simplified version and the original ICD-10. They agreed that since such use will add greater detail about the patient’s conditions and also as some users will want to use the original ICD-10 codes, such dual use of the simplified version and the original ICD-10 should be accepted. Professor Kim reported that development of an application for browsing both the original ICD-10 and the simplified version is planned.

Dr. Paoin presented the database table, which summarizes diseases that have different codes depending on the patient type. The table will facilitate automated coding by computers.

6. Future plans

July 11, 2014	Release of the ICD-10 APN simplified version (alpha version)
October 2014	Poster presentation at the WHO-FIC Network Annual Meeting; presentation at the Education and Implementation Committee (EIC); lunch meeting
January 2015	Working meeting

	Release of the ICD-10 APN simplified version (beta version)
February 2015	Start translation
	Start development of a training curriculum
Around July 2015	7th Asia-Pacific Network Meeting either in Malaysia or Cambodia (provisional); workshop on the ICD-10 APN simplified version.
August-September 2015	Field trial for ICD-10 APN simplified version
2016	Start trainer education

At the 7th APN Meeting, there will be a workshop on the ICD-10 APN simplified version. For the actual implementation of the simplified version, several PCUs should be asked to use the simplified version on a trial basis for a couple of months, in addition to disseminating information about the simplified version through the workshop. A participant commented that there may be a need to pay certain remuneration to the cooperating PCUs as a kind of incentive.

Professor Kim presented a Cambodian translation of ICD-10 using translation software currently under development. He said that the software will be completed to a certain extent by the end of the year.

The next working meeting is planned for in January 2015.