



EPIDEMIOLOGY

# THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES, 11TH REVISION: REDRAFTING AND FIELD-TESTING OF THE DERMATOLOGICAL CONTENT OF ICD FOR ICD-11

*R Chalmers*<sup>(1)</sup>

*Centre For Dermatology Research, University Of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom*<sup>(1)</sup>

**Introduction:** ICD is the global standard for reporting mortality and is widely used by healthcare providers and funders for documenting morbidity. In 2008 the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to form an Expert Working Group (EWG) to review and update the dermatology content of ICD, which had changed little since the 6th Revision in 1948. Advances in information technology in the 20 years since the 10th Revision enabled WHO to undertake an ambitious project for the 11th, whereby different versions of ICD-11 could be extracted from a common Foundation, including not only the ICD-11 MMS (for international reporting of Mortality and Morbidity Statistics) but also more detailed specialist classifications including for skin disease.

**Objective:** To update the skin disease content of ICD

**Methods:** ILDS invited selected dermatologists from around the globe to join the EWG, which then consulted widely in an extensive iterative process to ensure that conditions relevant to dermatology were adequately and accurately represented. ILDS then conducted an international field-testing exercise in which it invited its member associations to test the utility of the ICD draft.

**Results:** A radical new structure for the skin disease chapter was developed and subsequently accepted by WHO. The revision also involved extensive collaboration with other EWGs, particularly in relation to infectious diseases, neoplasms, immune disorders, mental health, circulatory disorders and developmental anomalies. Eighty dermatologists from 16 nations coded 3,879 patient records for the field-testing exercise: 94.3% of diagnoses could be satisfactorily coded using ICD-11 MMS with a further 3.1% individually specified only in the ICD-11 Foundation. In only 14 cases (0.4%) was it found appropriate to add missing concepts to the classification.

**Conclusions:** ICD-11 will enable skin diseases to be documented in ICD with much greater





precision than is currently possible.

