ICF Update

News from the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and its member organisations

Introducing ICF to physical therapists

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is providing free podcasts describing the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) on its website. The first in a series of podcasts can be reviewed at www.apta.org, to access the podcast enter Podcast ICF in the search field.

La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia has produced a library resource linking students to numerous ICF resources. http://latrobe.libguides.com/content.php?pid=19045

The Korean Association of Physical Therapy (KPTA) is partnering with WCPT to hold a workshop on the ICF in Daejeon, Korea on 17 & 18 October. Information about the workshop, which is targeted for physical therapy educators, managers and researchers, can be found on a flier attached to this update. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

ICF references

A reference list of ICF relevant articles has been on the WCPT website for some time. It is updated once or twice a year. During the second quarter of 2009 this database was not only updated but also converted to an Endnote library. This library can be down loaded by anyone with access to the software and can be searched by author, year of publication, keywords etc. The Word version will continue to be available on the WCPT website as an alphabetical list of first authors at http://www.wcpt.org/node/29224#Articles.

News from the World Health Organization Network of Collaborating Centres for the Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC)

The Nordic Collaborating Centre for the Family of Classifications has moved home

The Nordic Centre for Classifications in Health Care is responsible for the WHO family of classifications and a range of classifications specific to the Nordic region. The Centre has recently moved from Sweden to Norway and changed their web address to: http://www.helsedirektoratet.no/nordclass_english/icf

The ICF web page includes links to an inventory of ICF activities, programs and presentations from ICF conferences and a slide presentation in Norwegian.
Update from the North American Collaborating Centre

The latest version of the North American Collaborating Centre (NACC) Newsletter is now available on the web. The newsletter includes a new Coders Corner section on coding using the ICF. So if you want to know more about coding or contribute examples have a look at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/june2009naccicfnewsletter.pdf

The newsletter also includes information on an "ICF Web Seminar Series" (December 1 – 3, 2009); the entry of ICF into the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), including a brief tutorial on accessing the UMLS; and a report from the 2008 NACC ICF Conference in Québec City.

WHO’s Functioning and Disability Reference Group meets in Sao Paulo

The Functioning and Disability Reference Group (FDRG) held its mid-year meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil at the end of July. A series of presentations from countries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region were presented on the first afternoon. Dr Armando Vasquez from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) gave an overview of work in countries across the region. A variety of ICF applications were outlined by people from a number of countries in the region including a range of applications in the area of disability registration and social security. For more information on the ICF in the South American and Caribbean Region contact Cassia Maria Buchalla at the WHO collaborating centre in Brazil [cmbuchal@usp.br] for information in Portuguese, and Patricia Soliz at the collaborating centre in Mexico [cif@salud.gob.mx] for information in Spanish.

ICF Education

A set of curriculum modules for ICF education have been developed. They are available on the website of the North American Collaborating Centre in English. Spanish, French and Portuguese versions are being drafted.

An ICF web course is currently under development. There is to be an introductory module and three additional modules addressing different aspects of ICF implementation. The introductory module will be finalised before long. It will then be pilot tested. If there are physical therapists or physical therapy students who would like to be involved in pilot testing please contact Catherine Sykes at csykes@wcpt.org

As the drafting of subsequent modules gets underway there will be an opportunity for physical therapists experienced in using ICF to contribute to the development by joining working groups.

ICF Implementation database

A database of ICF use across the world is to be established. The intention of the database is for capacity building. The sort of information that is to be included on the database will inform new users of the classification, about how the ICF has been used and lessons learned. There are to be two modules, one for Health and disability at population level and the other for administrative and clinical uses. The database is at the planning stage. The Functioning and
Disability Reference Group has been asked to advise on the sorts of rubrics that would be informative.

**Guidelines**

Work is progressing on guidelines for the ethical use of ICF and data collected using the ICF. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability has been adopted by many countries and the ICF provides a framework for monitoring actions under the convention. A publication in Italian explores the relationship between the ICF and the UN convention. An English language version should be available at the end of the year.

Work is also progressing on coding guidelines to augment those already published in the ICF annex 2.

**Environmental factors**

Look out for two papers on operationalising the environmental factors component of the ICF. These papers explore the scope of environmental assessment, and review environmental assessment tools and their psychometric properties. The first are to be published in Social Science and Medicine, and the latter in Disability and Rehabilitation.

The International Standards Organization (ISO) standard 9999 is a classification and terminology of technical aids for persons with disability. It is currently being updated to bring it more in line with the ICF to which it is related. The benefit of aligning the two classifications is that where more detailed information is collected using the ISO9999 it can be aggregated to fewer ICF codes for statistical purposes. The functioning and disability reference group is monitoring this work and providing expert advice.

**Updating the ICF**

To ensure that the ICF is up to date with current knowledge and relevant for the purpose for which it was designed an updating process has been designed. An online platform will enable users of the classification to propose changes to the classification. These may be as simple as correcting a typographical error, to enhancing a definition or even adding a new code. Whilst the details of the update process are being finalised it is time for physical therapists to consider what sort of updates are needed to improve the classification.

**Two classifications to be used together**

The ICF model includes ‘health conditions’. These may be coded using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The ICD, now in its 10th edition, is currently being revised; which provides an opportunity to ensure that the terms that are used in a specific way in ICF are used appropriately in the ICD, such that the two classifications can be used complementarily. The Functioning and Disability Reference Group has communicated with the ICD revision steering group to inform the drafting teams about the ICF and its relationship to ICD. Drafting ICD-11 is about to begin. FDRG is also examining the ICD for areas of overlap and inconsistency.

The next meeting of the FDRG will be in October in Korea.
ICF network and forum

Please use the ICF forum on the WCPT website to let others in our WCPT ICF Network know of your ICF activities, exchange ideas and support new users.

www.wcpt.org/smf/index.php?board=48.0

Also think about presenting the results of your ICF activities at the forthcoming WCPT congress. Sign up for the congress update at www.wcpt.org/user/register to receive the latest information and all you need to know about World Physical Therapy 2011, WCPT’s 16th International Congress. The call for focused symposia is now open with a submission deadline of 31 October, see www.wcpt.org/congress.fs for full details. The calls for workshops, courses, and platform and poster abstracts will follow later.

If you have ideas about what you would like to see presented on ICF at congress please let me know csykes@wcpt.org