

ICF Core Sets International Multicentric Validation Study

Coding Rules

Body Functions and Body Structures

When judging the extent of problems in functioning, a comparison with a standard or norm is necessary. In the component Body Functions and Structures, when judging the extent of the problems in functioning, take into account the specific body function or body structure as delimited by the ICF definitions and by the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the given ICF category, and compare this to what is considered „normal“ function or „normal“ anatomical structure.

The basis of the judgement is the ICF category as a whole. All aspects that are part of the given ICF category should be considered and an overall judgement performed. Please consider, that ICF categories at a lower level are broader and include a greater number of different aspects than ICF categories at higher levels.

Environmental Factors may influence the individual's Body Functions within a given ICF category (e.g. medication may influence pain). When judging the extent of problems in functioning in a determined ICF category, you will intuitively consider the current level of impairment in that category (e.g. little pain in a determined patient). However, please note, that the influence of the Environmental Factors also provides valuable information regarding the level of impairment in that category (e.g. high amount of pain-killers used), therefore, take also into account this information to perform an overall judgement.

Activities and Participation

In the component Activity and Participation, the standard or norm, against which an individual's activity and participation is compared, is that of the individual without the health condition.

Take into account the individual patient's perspective, i.e., take into account only those and all those Activities and Participations that are relevant and meaningful to the specific individual to perform an overall judgement.

Environmental Factors may influence the individual's level of difficulties in Activity and Participation within a given ICF category (e.g. a crutch may influence walking). When judging the extent of problems in functioning in a determined ICF category, you will intuitively consider the current level of difficulties in that category (e.g. a determined patient walks several blocks). However, please note, that the influence of the Environmental Factors also provides valuable information regarding the level of difficulties in that category (e.g. a crutch is necessary even for walking short distances), therefore, take also into account this information to perform an overall judgement.

Environmental Factors

In the component Environmental Factors, please take into account the individual patient's perspective, i.e., take into account only those and all those environmental factors that are relevant and meaningful to the specific patient.

Within one and the same ICF category different environmental factors are often summarized and may include barriers as well as facilitators. All relevant and meaningful aspects, which are the barriers and facilitators that are part of the given ICF category should be considered when assigning a qualifier. In this way an overall judgement of the complete content within a given category should be performed to describe to what extent a determined category represents a barrier or a facilitator.

Comorbidities

When the individual's problem within an ICF category is related to a comorbidity, but not to the index health condition, than the qualifier C, as well as the qualifier for the extent of the problem 1-4 will both be used.

When the individual's problem within an ICF category is related to a comorbidity, as well as to the index condition, than the qualifier for the extent of the problem will be used only.