

Version Numbering of ICPC

This document describes the version numbering used in the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) as decided by the WICC Update Group in November 2005. It applies to the electronic versions of the ICPC English master copy and its translations. Published books or paper versions by Wonca or translated paper versions might be named or numbered in other ways, but should *always* refer to what version of the English master copy that they originate from.

Versions numbers for ICPC consist of three fields, denoting the major version, the minor version, and the update version, respectively. The major version field is attached to the name ICPC and with the letter “e” that emphasises that this is the electronic version. For example, "ICPC-2e-v.1.1" indicates major electronic version 2 of ICPC, minor version 1 of ICPC-2e, and the update version 1 of minor version ICPC-2e-v.1.

Formally, each new version of the ICPC supersedes all earlier versions. However, because of the differences in the ways major, minor, and update versions are documented, minor and update versions generally do not obsolete all of the documentation of the immediately prior versions of the standard.

The differences between major, minor, and update versions are as follows:

Major Version

A major version represents modifications of the structure or large changes in the main rubrics of ICPC. This includes rubrics added, deleted or rearranged. A rearrangement comprises merging or splitting rubrics or moving rubrics from one component or chapter to another. A major version is usually published together with a new edition of the ICPC book.

A major version consolidates all errata and corrigenda to data. The publication of a new major electronic version supersedes any prior documentation for major, minor, and updates versions.

Minor Version

A minor version represents significant changes to the content of the rubrics of ICPC, but not the structure or the titles of rubrics. It may embrace alterations in the criteria, inclusions and exclusions of the rubrics. It also includes major adjustments of conversion tables to other classification systems that imply a change of the content or criteria. Publication of a new minor version has to be decided upon by the whole WICC group in a meeting. A minor version is published online.

A minor version incorporates updates. The documentation for a minor version does not stand alone, but rather amends the documentation of the prior major version and any prior minor version of that major version.

Update Version

An update version represents relatively small changes of ICPC. It includes errata and linguistic improvements. It also goes to rewriting of criteria and changes in conversions tables that do not imply significant changes of the content of a rubric. The documentation for an update version does not stand alone, but rather amends that for the prior minor version. Publication of an update version can be decided upon by the WICC Update Group alone if full agreement in the group, else it has to be put forward to the whole WICC group.

Labelling and numbering earlier versions of ICPC

Before version numbering was decided, versions of ICPC were given causal names like referring to a corresponding paper version, the date published, a revision or something of the sort. Some of these names are well worked in and should be allowed used as an extension added to the official version number. For example like the new minor version of ICPC-2e published in Family Practice 2002, ought to have the name ICPC-2e-v.2.0, March 2002.

Version number – new system	Original label of earlier ICPC versions
ICPC-2e-v.3.0	ICPC-2 -R (published May 2005)
ICPC-2e-v.2.0	ICPC-2-E March 2002
ICPC-2e-v.1.0	ICPC-2-E 2000
ICPC-2-v.0.0	ICPC-2 (published 1998)
ICPC-1-v.0.0	ICPC (published 1987)

Translations of ICPC - recommendation

The WICC Update Group recommends the following practice for version numbering when it comes to translations: A translation of ICPC carries the same version numbering as the original that it was translated from. In addition there is one field telling what country this translation originates from (two digits country codes, [ISO 3166](#)). If necessary a second and third field can be added. The first states the language and the second can be used freely to describe local adaptations. For example: ICPC-2e-v.1.0 GB, Welch, extended version.

There were no requirements earlier to label or number translations of ICPC, but earlier translations mostly carry the same major version name as the GB master which they originate from.

Last updated: November 23rd 2005