

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/AC.36/1998/13
EUR/ICP/INFO 020603/13

4 August 1998

Original: ENGLISH

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint ECE-WHO Meeting on Health Statistics
(Rome, Italy, 14-16 October 1998)

SESSION IV: Progress towards implementation of ICD-10

**INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION - ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED FOR
MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY STATISTICS**

Invited paper submitted by the WHO Collaborating Centre for the
Classification of Diseases in the Nordic Countries and
the Swedish National Board of Health¹

Abstract

The document gives examples of some newly developed mechanisms for international coordination of the application of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). In the area of mortality these include an electronic discussion group, the Mortality Forum, in which problems experienced in coding can be raised; the establishment of an international Mortality Reference Group which can give advice and recommendations as to the interpretation of coding rules. Some problems may entail a proposal for updating ICD-10 which should be brought to an Update Reference Committee. Similar mechanisms may be needed also for international coordination of morbidity coding. The document also describes various strategies for overcoming problems related to shifts between different revisions of ICD. Such strategies are of particular interest during the current, extended period of transition between ICD-9 and ICD-10. The strategies include equivalence tables, translation tables, bridge coding and coordinated tabulation lists. Results from a comparative study of the collection, processing and publication of mortality statistics in the Nordic countries

¹ Prepared by Björn Smedby, Kerstin Carsjö, Lars Age Johansson, WHO Collaborating Centre for the Classification of Diseases in the Nordic Countries, and Dag Swenson, Swedish National Board of Health.

with special emphasis on improving inter-Nordic coordination will also be described briefly.