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### Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death. Vol. 1.

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Book : Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death. Vol. 1. 1977 pp.xxxiii + 773 pp.

Abstract : In most countries of the world vital and health statistics have, from the beginning of this year, been classified in accordance with a new revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). This revision, the ninth (ICD-9), is available in several languages in two volumes: the tabular list and the index. Although the

categories has been increased by 90, its main structure is very similar to previous revisions but it contains many innovations coincident upon the need to exploit the potential of flexibility arising from the proliferation of data-retrieval systems in recent years. Many of the changes are particularly appropriate to the use of the ICD for coding of morbidity statistics, and include the basis of dual classification by site of manifestation ("daggers and asterisks") and for the first time a set of rules for the selection of a single cause for such applications as the collection of data relating to hospital admissions. One further aspect worthy of note is a recommendation for enhanced information on maternal and perinatal mortality, advocating a form of death certificate - a recommendation that for civil registration reasons it may be possible to implement in many countries.

What particularly characterizes this revision is that the opportunity has been available for more detailed extensions of the system of disease classification and to encompass related statistical areas. In 1974 WHO issued a glossary of mental disorders designed to improve the international comparability of mental health statistics. This is updated (7), is now incorporated within the mental disorders chapter (V) of the ICD, published separately, with a detailed index and an introduction of general and specific interest. The needs of oncology for a classification based on the topography, morphology and behaviour of tumours are met by a further volume (ICD-O) which provides a coding system based on all these axes and which is compatible with the ICD. WHO have also issued a supplementary classification for use in dentistry and ophthalmology (3).

There has also been a change in the suggested method of presentation of the ICD, a new combined list of causes forming a basic tabulation list. The composition of this list is included in ICD-9 volume 1 and also as a separate volume with an index (4). This volume is primarily intended for the production of vital statistics in those countries which have limited coding resources, but should also be of value for use in special studies where the full detail of the ICD is not required or as an index to tabulated data. A possible danger of this particular volume is that occasional users may fail to recognize that the numbers referred to in its index are those of the basic tabulation list and not the ICD numbers.

As well as enhancing the system of coding diseases, this revision coincides with the appearance of two volumes of an international classification of procedures in medicine. The first volume (5) includes sets of codes for diagnostic, laboratory and pathological procedures, as well as for operations and other therapeutic procedures. The second volume (6) provides a classification of radiology, radiotherapy, drugs, medicinal and biological agents. All these classifications are based on the best information available internationally and provide a wealth of detail suitable for statistical analysis; the use of abbreviated codes should also be helpful in surveys or if objectives are

limited.

If all that is now made available by WHO is used to the full, both internationally and nationally, then 1979 should be an important milestone along the road of declassification and vital statistics.

(1) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *Mental disorders: glossary and guide to classification in accordance with the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases*. 96 pp. 1978. [ISBN 92 4 154137 7] [Sw.fr. 12.-].

(2) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *ICD-O: International Classification of Diseases in Oncology*, pp. xxiii + 131. 1976 [ISBN 92 4 154056 7] [Sw. fr. 20.-].

(3) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Dentistry and Stomatology. ICD-DA*. 2nd ed. 150 pp. 1978. [ISBN 92 4 154136 6] [Sw. fr. 20.-].

(4) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. Basic Tabulation List with alphabetical index*. 331 pp. 1978. [ISBN 92 4 154136 6].

(5) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *International Classification of Procedure Codes. Vol. 1*. Various paginations. 1978. [ISBN 92 4 154124 5] [Sw. fr. 15.-].

(6) WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. *International Classification of Procedure Codes. Vol. 2*. Various paginations. 1978. [ISBN 92 4 154125 3] [Sw. fr. 15.-]. *J.S.A. As*

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