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Clinical Disease Coding and Classification: an overview for General Practitioners

Author: Meade, Brian Dr.;National GPIT Group;ICGP

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What is a classification system?

What is a disease coding system?

Why do we need disease classification systems when using computers?

Does coding disease make a consultation longer?

Which classification systems are in use in General Practice?

ICPC-2-International Classification of Primary Care

ICPC-2 Plus

ICD 10 - International Classification of Disease

SNOMED CT - Systemised Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms

Disease Registers

References

Description

The document provides an overview of disease coding and classification for GPs as well as advice on setting up a disease register. The area is likely to be of more importance given that GPs are set to become more involved in providing chronic disease care over the coming years and are now obliged to carry out practice audits in order to retain their professional competence with the medical council. The revised overview includes a reference to ICPC-2 Plus an Australian classification now being offered by some GP software suppliers.

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