



ICPC 3: A classification tool for capturing the functioning of the patient

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The new ICPC-3 (update of ICPC-2) includes a chapter based on a subset of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF), with extension codes for severity grading and an expanded chapter on intervention and processes.

Example - a patient case:

History: “Mrs. Rodriguez 38 years old, severe pain in the right shoulder and upper arm since last night, paracetamol doesn’t help, could not sleep because of the pain. No trauma.

Examination: dropping right arm and a winged scapula, all active movements are painful, and passive arm/shoulder examination cannot be tested because of the pain.

Diagnosis: Neuralgic amyotrophy.

Plan: analgesics and prednisone for one week. Telephone consultation the next day”.



Possible ICPC-3 Coding:

- Subjective/Symptoms:
 - LS07 (Shoulder symptom or complaint),
 - LS08 (Arm symptom or complaint).
- Function with qualifiers:
 - 2F84 (Pain PSV.2 severe),
 - 2F26 (Hand and arm use PSV.2 severe problem, very limited).
- Assessment/Diagnosis:
 - ND77 (Peripheral neuritis, neuropathy, or both).
- Plan:
 - N201 (Pharmacotherapy and prescription),
 - N602 (Formulation of the care plan).

Conclusion:

Coding patient functioning with ICPC-3 can:

- profoundly capture daily life challenges and
- assist in assessing disease progression or treatment efficacy.

This adds value to clinical practice and primary care research but needs to be tested in everyday practice.

The Functioning chapter simplifies the usage of the complex ICF.

