ICPC-3: Looking to the future of primary health care

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A new version of the International Classification of Primary Care, ICPC-3, was published in 2020 and represents a concise person-centered health issues classification for primary care. ICPC-3 offers extended functionalities, facilitating more detailed healthcare documentation. ICPC-3 improves on ICPC-2 by :

Introducing an additional letter in each rubric —'S' for symptoms and 'D' for diagnosis — enhancing the possibility of increased granularity necessary for primary care precision.

A new chapter A1 now precedes the existing chapter A. This change improves the possibility for coding of visits for general examination, routine examination, family planning, and prevention

Chapters X and Y are merged into chapter G - genital system

Also, the chapter on Interventions and Processes has been expanded.

A subset from the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) is integrated, which augments the classification's patient-centered approach by enabling the coding of patient functioning alongside symptoms and diseases.

The chapters from A to Z have the same initial letter as in ICPC-2.
ICPC-3 retains the hierarchical structure prioritizing localization over etiology, ensuring symptoms and diseases are cataloged in the same chapters. This consistency aids in effectively tracking episodes of care from initial encounters and symptoms through to diagnoses.

ICPC-3 provides an expanded opportunity to classify and document subjective information, objective data, assessment, and plans for future actions

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