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Training Coding Specialists for the Future: Methods and Materials for the Beta Version of ICD-11

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Introduction

In June 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) will release the 11th Version of International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). New training methods and materials are required. As a WHO Collaborating Center, with Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) members, we trained 6 coding professionals for testing ICD-11 coding processes.

to complex conditions, and multiple scenarios with 'gold standard' codes for practice. Reference Guide, Coding Tool, and Browser recommendations have been shared with members of the WHO Morbidity and Quality & Safety Advisory groups.

Objectives and Approach

The objective was to achieve a high level of inter-rater reliability using ICD-11 for acute care chart coding. We used Adult Learning principles with CIHI members and 6 certified coding specialists to co-create presentations, practice materials, and decision trees to teach knowledge and skill with ICD-11 tooling and content. Training involved 14 hours of interactive learning plus additional practice hours. A bank of questions and coding scenarios tested knowledge and application of ICD-11 terminology and principles. Coding was undertaken on a set of 3000 randomly selected inpatient Calgary hospital discharges as part of a large CIHR funded ICD-11 field trial.

Results

The coding team achieved an average score of 84% on the ICD-11 coding quiz and 0.65 (0.33 -1.0) agreement on parent code of main condition for the coding quiz scenarios. 60 inpatient charts were coded by more than one coder to test inter-rater reliability. Agreement was ≥ 0.80 for the majority of parent codes for main condition. Coding differences may be due to unfamiliar code choices or training gaps. New code descriptions in ICD-11 enhance code selection. Challenges included training while codes were being built in the ICD-11 browser, and minimal coding rules or standards.

Conclusion/Implications

Recommendations include more code descriptions in the browser and rules in a reference guide, teaching from simple



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