

Operationalizing the Environment

Applying the ICF in Clinical Settings

Lynn Bufka, Christine Trask, Geoffrey Reed, Lori Ann Nicholson, David Gray and Trish Saleeby



12th Annual North American Collaborating Center Conference on ICF

**LIVING IN OUR ENVIRONMENT:
The Promise of ICF**

2006
JUNE 5 to 7
Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)

Environmental Factors



1. Products and technology
 2. Natural environment and human-made changes to the environment
 3. Support and relationships
 4. Attitudes
 5. Services, systems and policies
- *Environmental Factors are to be coded from the perspective of the person whose situation is being described and can serve as Facilitators or Barriers*

How would e codes be used?

ICF proposes three conventions:

- Environmental factors are coded alone, without relating these codes to Body Functions, Body Structures or Activities and Participation
- Environmental factors are coded for every component
- Environmental factors are coded for all capacity and performance qualifiers in A & P

Coding Convention 1

- Convention most often used
- Does not directly link Environment codes to other codes
- Provides great flexibility in determining what factors are coded in each case
- Only recognizes effect of Environment on entire person across all behaviors; provides no mechanism for noting how Environment acts as a barrier or facilitator for specific tasks and activities

Coding Convention 2

- Provides high level of detail and description
- Links an e-code to every Body functions code, every Body structures code, every Activities and Participation code
- E-codes might not be relevant for all coded areas, some areas might require multiple e-codes
- Time consuming and potentially repetitive as the same e-code might modify many other codes

Coding Convention 3

- Provides method for detailing environmental assistance as it relates to all A&P codes
- Directly links facilitators and barriers to life tasks and situations
- May lead to extensive repetition of e-codes as they are listed for different A&P codes and qualifiers
- Not all A&P codes may necessitate an e-code
- Does not provide mechanism for noting impact of environment on other areas



Procedural Manual and Guide for a Standardized Application of the ICF

Goals of Manual

- Standard approach to the classification that is clinically grounded
- Consistent interpretation of concepts and operational definitions of terms
- Reliable, valid, and clinically useful classification using the ICF system
- Text and interactive versions (Internet-based or CD-ROM)

Prototype Manual Format

- Body Functions/Activities and Participation/Environment
- Additional Information
- Operational Examples
- Guidance on Qualifiers
 - Definition of Standard Environment
 - Assistance
 - Facilitator or Barrier
- Case Examples

Case Examples

- Codes connect to individuals with health conditions
- Examples illustrate both barriers and facilitators for individual
- Additional examples demonstrate broader impact of community factors on functioning

Examples of Facilitators

e115+ Products and technology for personal use in daily living

The landlord of a 35-year-old man who uses a wheelchair installs a voice-activated environmental control unit in the man's apartment, allowing the man to turn his lights on and off and regulate the room temperature without assistance.

The availability of stoves with raised symbols to identify the individual controls enables people with impairments in vision to prepare their meals independently.

Examples of Barriers

e140. Products and technology for culture, recreation and sport

When the audiotaped book to which a 53-year-old woman who is blind is listening stops working in her tape player, she is unable to finish the story.

A riding stable offers no adapted saddles, which makes it impossible for a 25-year-old woman with semiplegia to compete in a dressage event.



Emerging Issues

Coding Conventions

- Uncertainty regarding which proposed coding convention will be maximally useful in clinical practice
- Conventions untested in clinical practice settings
- Field testing of Manual will include evaluation of coding options
- Establishing preferred coding convention may increase likelihood codes will be used

Overlap Among e Codes

e150 Design, construction and building products and technology of buildings for public use

e155 Design, construction and building products and technology of buildings for private use

e515 Architecture and construction services, systems and policies

e525 Housing services, systems and policies

Potential Solution

Manual text identifies potential overlaps and differentiates items

- Chapter 1 emphasizes aspects of building and construction that are related to the products and technology
 - Includes ramps, sinks one can roll under, elevators and so on
- Chapter 5 addresses services, systems and policies
 - Those governing design and construction of buildings (such as the company that designs the layout of the facility or builds the ramps)
 - Those that determine who obtains and how one obtains appropriate housing

Overlap Among e Codes

e160 Products and technology of land development

Products and technology of land areas, as they affect an individual's outdoor environment through the implementation of land use policies, design, planning and development of space, including those adapted or specially designed

e520 Open space planning services, systems and policies

Services, systems and policies for the planning, design, development and maintenance of public lands, (e.g. parks, forests, shorelines, wetlands) and private lands in the rural, suburban and urban context

Potential Solution

- Cross reference codes across chapters when ICF text definitions appear to overlap
- When multiple codes reference same concepts, Manual text offers guidance in selecting one or more codes
- Case examples illustrate use of code to distinguish areas that are unique

Overlap with Other ICF Codes

e140 Products and technology for culture,
recreation and sport

and

d920 Recreation and leisure

OR

e310 Immediate family

and

d760 Family relationships

Potential Solution

Text in the Manual indicates that Environment is about the availability and accessibility of products, technology and people in the individual's community

WHEREAS

Text in the Manual indicates that A&P codes are about the individual's ability to participate in that arena and use the products and technology or engage in relationships

Future Directions

- Final editing of Manual chapters
- Review and comment process
- Field testing clinical use
- Incorporation of Manual into research protocols
- Implementation of ICF and Manual in health care settings

Manual Review Process

- Web based system for review
- All participants provided with overview and instructions
- Participants can comment on all or portions of the manual
- Pre-set code lists by clinical discipline have been created to guide respondents
- Applicability and adequacy of content at code and chapter level reviewed

Key Field Trial Issues

- Field test potential solutions to issues outlined in this presentation
- Examine applications of e codes in clinical settings
- Derive “best practice” for coding convention of e codes

Participate in Review

To participate in the review, please email complete contact information to Lynn F. Bufka, PhD at lbufka@apa.org