

New External Cause categories in fifth edition of ICD-10-AM

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Key findings

- The 5th edition of the Australian Clinical Modification of the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10-AM) has been published, and will be used to code cases discharged from Australian hospitals from 1 July 2006.
- This edition includes some changes to the chapter of ICD-10-AM that is used to code the external causes of injuries. This briefing provides an outline of these changes.
- In summary the changes are:
 - Additions to categories to allow identification of cases where a pedestrian is struck by a person using conveyances such as skateboards and electrically powered mobility scooters ('gophers').
 - Addition of categories to provide more specific information on :
 - circumstances of falls
 - types of animals
 - types of hot objects
 - hanging
 - minor revisions to activity codes for sports and to place of occurrence codes.

Background of ICD-10-AM

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of hospital inpatient and mortality data. The Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) is used to code diagnoses and external causes of injury and poisoning. Chapter XIX—*Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* and Chapter XX—*External causes of morbidity and mortality* are particularly important in relation to injury surveillance and control.

Australia has extended the ICD-10 for clinical purposes by developing the ICD-10-AM. This document, which was first published in 1998, has been modified by the National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH) every two years since then, with the assistance of clinicians and clinical coders to ensure that the classification is current and appropriate for Australian clinical practice. Assistance has also been sought from other health-related organisations including those involved in injury surveillance whose input has led to a number of changes in both Chapters XIX and XX.

This process of revision provides valuable periodic opportunities for users of the ICD-10-AM coded data to assess the extent to which the system provides them with necessary information, and to propose expansion of this classification where this would enhance the value of the system (Flood and Harrison 2006). It has markedly improved the value of Australian hospital inpatient data for surveillance and research related to surveillance and control. Two notable revisions to previous editions of ICD-10-AM include the enhanced coverage of sports injury and perpetrators of assault. The project reported here was undertaken to continue this process during the development of the fifth edition of ICD-10-AM.

Summary of changes

Some of the major changes relate to expansion of a number of falls categories, with particular attention given to falls from furniture items. The proliferation in the number of pedestrian type conveyances is also recognised by the addition of a new transport category. Other changes relate to minor amendments including changes to a number of activity and place of occurrence codes.

The changes arose out of a consultative process managed by NISU and reflect the views of people concerned with injury prevention and control in Australia about topics and categories that would increase the value of hospital separations data for injury prevention and control. Practicality of implementation was kept in mind, and clinical coders participated in the process of identifying topics and designing new categories.

All of the changes provide more specific categories by splitting existing external cause categories. Thus, data collected according to the new fifth edition version can be made compatible with data collected according to earlier versions of ICD-10-AM by collapsing the new categories into broader ones available in previous editions.

The following notes describe the main changes. Additional details are provided in Table 1.

Transport-related injuries

The current fourth edition provides limited capability for effectively coding transport accidents involving pedestrians on pedestrian conveyances such as skateboards and wheelchairs. Some pedestrian conveyances such as mobility scooters, or 'gophers' as they are commonly termed, have become increasingly popular in recent years. The addition of a new category (V00) will enable more specific coding of accidents involving these types of devices.

The addition of a 5th character to category V80 will provide the ability to distinguish between accidents involving riders of horses or other animals and accidents involving occupants of animal-drawn vehicles.

Falls

Information about the circumstances in which falls occur is one of the foundations of injury prevention. Particular attention has been given to falls from furniture items with categories related to falls from beds (W06), chairs (W07) and nursery-related furniture such as change tables (W08) all being expanded. Other categories which have been expanded include falls related to buildings and structures (W13) and other falls on same level (W18). Additional categories added to category W02 include falls from pedestrian devices such as scooters and baby carriages where these falls are not as a result of a transport accident.

Other changes

Other changes include:

The ability to distinguish being bitten or struck by cats, cattle or sheep from being bitten or struck by other mammals (W55).

The ability to distinguish contact with appliances such as hot stoves or ovens, hot saucepans, hot toasters, hot kettles or hot clothes irons from contact with hot household appliances (X15).

The ability to distinguish between intentional self-harm by hanging, intentional self-harm by strangulation and intentional self-harm by suffocation (X70).

Paintball gun added as an inclusion to all categories relating to air rifle discharges (W34.1) (X74.1) (X95.1) (Y24.1).

Addition of inclusions and exclusions and minor title changes to a number of "Activity" codes including Equestrian activities (U63), wind surfing (U54.7) and Other specified ice or snow sport (U55.8).

Addition of a new activity code for Land sailing (U66.5).

Addition and modification of inclusions to various 'Place of occurrence' codes which include 'Sporting grounds (outdoor)' (Y92.30), 'Sporting grounds (indoor)' (Y92.31), 'Area of still water' (Y92.80), 'Forest' (Y92.84) and 'Other specified countryside' (Y92.86).

Table 1: Changes to the 'External Causes' chapter of ICD-10-AM between the fourth and fifth editions

Categories	Changes	Comments
U54.7 Wind surfing U55.8 Other specified ice or snow sport	New inclusion notes specify that: Kite surfing be coded to U54.7; and Ice sailing be coded to U55.8.	Kite surfing and ice sailing are relatively new recreational activities that have become increasingly popular in Australia.
U63.03 Steeplechase and cross-country eventing	Title amended from 'Steeplechase' and definition added. New inclusion added for roads and tracks. New exclusion notes specify that: cross-country riding be coded to U63.1; horse racing be coded to U63.31 and hurdle racing be coded to U63.32.	Equestrian activities (U63) cover a wide range of events. These changes provide greater clarification as to where each of these events should be coded.
U63.08 Other specified equestrian event	New inclusion added for equestrian events such as driving, reining, training and vaulting; buggy, carriage or wagon racing, show horse competition and western riding.	
U63.3 Horse racing events	U63.3 split into 2 categories: U63.31 Horse racing and U63.32 Hurdle racing. New exclusion notes specify that trotting and harness racing should be coded to U63.6 and steeplechase and cross-country eventing should be coded to U63.03.	
U63.8 Other specified equestrian activity	New inclusions added for barrel riding, camp-drafting and tent pegging.	
U66.5 Land sailing	New category.	
V00 Pedestrian injured in collision with pedestrian conveyance	New category.	Land sailing is a relatively new recreational activity that has become increasingly popular in Australia.
V80 Animal-rider or occupant of animal-drawn vehicle injured in transport accident	5th character to distinguish rider of horse from rider of other animal and occupant of animal-drawn vehicle.	
W02 Fall involving ice-skates, skis, roller-skates, skateboards, scooters and other pedestrian conveyances	Added additional categories for falls involving non-powered scooters, baby carriages, baby walkers and other and unspecified pedestrian conveyances. New exclusion notes specify that: collisions with pedestrians be coded to V00 and falls involving wheelchairs be coded to W05.	
W06 Fall involving bed	4th character is used to distinguish between different types of beds.	This expansion will enable identification of the type of bed involved (i.e. bunk bed, special purpose bed, cot, bassinet, cradle, hammock or conventional bed).

continued

Table 1 (continued): Changes to the 'External Causes' chapter of ICD-10-AM between the fourth and fifth editions

Categories	Changes	Comments
W07 Fall involving chair	4th character is used to distinguish between different types of chairs.	This expansion will enable identification of the type of chair involved (i.e. rocking chair, folding chair, revolving chair, stool, high-chair, bath chair, commode chair or lift assistance chair).
W08 Fall involving other furniture	4th character is used to distinguish between other types of furniture.	This expansion will enable identification of the type of furniture involved (i.e. baby change table, baby exerciser or table).
W13 Fall from, out of or through building or structure	4th character is used to distinguish falls from, out of, or through different areas of buildings or structures.	This expansion will enable identification of nature and location of the fall (i.e. out of or through balcony or verandah, out of or through window, out of or through glass door, from roof, through roof, or from or through floor).
W18 Other fall on same level	4th character is used to distinguish nature of fall.	This expansion will enable identification of the nature of the fall (i.e. from bumping against object, from or off toilet or in or into bath-tub or shower).
W34.1, X74.1, X95.1, Y24.1 Air rifle discharge (Accidental, self-harm, Assault and undetermined intent)	New inclusion note for paintball gun.	Previous editions did not clarify where injuries involving paintball guns should be coded.
W55 Bitten or struck by other mammals	Additional categories for contact with cats, cattle, sheep and unspecified mammals.	
X15 Contact with hot household appliances	4th character is used to distinguish between contact with different types of hot household appliances.	This expansion will enable identification of the type of hot household appliance involved (i.e. stove, oven or cook-top, saucepan or frying pan, toaster, kettle, clothes iron or press or barbeque).
X70 Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation and suffocation	4th character is used to distinguish between self-harm due to hanging, strangulation or suffocation.	Provides the capability to distinguish between these three different types of intentional self-harm.
Y92 Place of occurrence	<p>Modification and addition of inclusions.</p> <p>Under Y92.30 'Baseball field' changed to 'Baseball/softball field', 'Football field' changed to 'Football field (Australian rules, rugby, soccer, touch)' and 'Outdoor basketball court' changed to 'Outdoor basketball/netball court'. 'Outdoor volleyball court' added as new inclusion.</p> <p>Under Y92.31 'Indoor basketball court' changed to 'Indoor basketball court'. 'Indoor cricket court' and 'Indoor volleyball court' added as new inclusions.</p> <p>Under Y92.80 'Reservoir' added as new inclusion.</p> <p>Under Y92.84 'Bush', 'National park', 'Plantation' and 'Scrub' added as new inclusions.</p> <p>Under Y92.86 'Gorge', 'Wilderness', 'Outback' and 'Sand dunes not adjacent to beach' added as new inclusions.</p>	Provides clarification as to where injuries occurring in these settings should be coded.

Other proposed changes

Other changes to chapter XX, and some changes to Chapter XIX—*Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* were considered during the revision process, but were not adopted. In many instances, advice was provided by the revision process indicating that the proposed changes could be considered in the future if resubmitted with additional information. Topics of these proposed changes included improved coding of the severity of injury to certain internal organs, poisoning by drugs, water, air and space transport accidents, falls on or from steps and stairs, accidental threats to breathing, contact with moving objects and place of occurrence codes, particularly in relation to injuries occurring in the home.

References

Flood L and Harrison JE (2006). Hospitalised sports injury, Australia 2002–03. Research and Statistics Series Number 27. (AIHW cat no. INJCAT 79) Adelaide: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare.

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