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MEETING OF HEADS OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES
FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES

Copenhagen, Denmark
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR
THE CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES IN FRENCH
1997

The French WHO Collaborating centre is established in the national mortality information service. Three persons work part-time for the French centre: Jean Boileau as nosologist, Dr Alain Lellouch as medical adviser and Gérard Pavillon as head of the centre.

This year, the activities of the French centre, continue to focus on the ICD-10 implementation and training. The centre has also initiated and participated to many international projects. The most recent activity concerns death statistics in France.

ICD-10 implementation

Updating mechanism. The updating procedure for ICD-10 defined in the Centre Heads meetings, was explained to the coding centres in France and to the French-speaking countries. No propositions were received from the coding centres using ICD-10 or from Switzerland, the only French-speaking country using ICD-10. The same 'call for updates' will be repeated in November this year.

Circulation of ICD-10 on magnetic support for the public sector. Last year, WHO licensed the French Centre for the circulation of ICD-10 on magnetic support in the French public sector. This year, 11 licences were signed, mainly with hospitals, but also with research centres and software designers.

Help to users. The French centre receive many requests from users. The questions concerned coding problems, implementation of ICD-10 and related issues.

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ICD-10 training

French-speaking training course. The French centre organised a training course on ICD-10 in May 1997. About 30 persons participated in this five-day course. The participants came from Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg and France. Dr Françoise Hatton took charge of the organization of this course. She was helped by Dr Paulette Maguin and Jean Boileau, a nosologist from the French mortality service. Dr Jean-Charles Alary and André L'Hours kindly accepted to teach some parts of the ICD-10. Dr Alain Lellouch, responsible for a Medical Information Department in Saint Germain Hospital and medical adviser to the French collaborating centre took charge of the morbidity part of the course. Each part of the course included a talk and a session on Tendon in French. This software was very much appreciated by the teachers and the participants. It is clear that Tendon is of great help for courses and for self-training as well.

International collaboration

Eurostat Project. This project, funded by the European Community, aims at improving the validity and international comparability of cause-of-death statistics. It will particularly study automated coding systems implemented or planned in European countries. Countries participating in this project are France, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. A short paper on this project is presented at this meeting.

Participation in the International Collaborative Effort (ICE). In the context of the ICE on automating mortality statistics, the NCHS organised a conference in November 1996 in Washington (DC) and a planning committee in Bethesda (Ma) in June 1997. The French centre participated in both and presented a study on Multiple cause analysis during the conference.

Multiple causes final report. The international study on multiple cause analysis undertaken by the French centre after the Caracas meeting in 1994 is now terminated and the final report was sent to WHO. A paper is presented at this meeting.

Other participation in international studies. The French centre participated in several other works or studies at the international level:

- discussion group on Internet organized and moderated by Lars Age Johansson;
- study on rules clarification undertaken by the Nordic centre;
- ICE on injuries;
- São Paulo centre study on Bronchopneumonia.

Death Statistics

The French centre, participates in the study and design of the information system of the national mortality information service. This system will allow the use of ICD-10 for mortality coding in 1999. The studied functions are electronic document management and the automatic coding of death certificates.