

GUIDELINES FOR ICNP CATALOGUE DEVELOPMENT



International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) Programme

International Council of Nurses

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3, place Jean-Marteau, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

ICNP

The International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), a programme and product of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), seeks to form an integral part of the global information infrastructure, informing health care practice and policy to improve patient care worldwide. ICNP helps nurses communicate with other practitioners, professionals and policy makers about their practice. ICNP facilitates consistent approaches to documentation and the resulting nursing data and information can be used for planning and managing nursing care, financial forecasting, analysis of patient outcomes, and policy development.

As an international standard, ICNP facilitates the collection and analysis of nursing data across populations, health care settings, languages and geographic regions. Data generated by using ICNP can support decision-making, thus enhancing the safety and quality of care for patients and families.

ICNP Catalogues

ICNP is large, comprising several thousand terms that are needed to adequately describe the totality of nursing practice. In order to make ICNP easier to use, and to make it easier to integrate it into practice, ICN is developing or endorsing externally-developed catalogues or subsets of ICNP for use with particular client groups, in particular settings or for different priority areas.

In this way, ICNP catalogues fill a practical need in building health information systems by describing nursing diagnoses, outcomes and interventions appropriate for particular areas of practice. The catalogues have all the benefits of being part of a unified nursing language system, with the aim of developing consistent data that describes the work of nursing.

Developing ICNP Catalogues

ICN welcomes worldwide participation in ICNP catalogue development and encourages nurses in clinical care areas or specialty organisations to work with ICN to develop and test catalogues for worldwide validation, and disseminate these catalogues for nurses globally.

Development of ICNP catalogues requires coordination through ICN. Important steps in the catalogue development process include:

1. Identify the focus for the catalogue.
2. Document the significance for nursing of the selected focus to help other users.

3. Contact ICN to determine if other groups are already working in the area of focus.
4. Identify, drawing on available evidence, relevant diagnosis, outcome and intervention statements from ICNP, and organise these for optimal use. There is not one specific theoretical or conceptual model for organising nursing diagnoses, interventions and outcomes in a catalogue. The presentation of the ICNP statements (diagnoses, outcomes and interventions) may vary for different catalogues and is determined by the catalogue development team and the needs of potential users. Throughout the catalogue development process any new concepts that might be needed and any recommendations for changes to existing ICNP concepts should be submitted to ICN.
5. Test the ICNP catalogues in paper or electronic systems and validate with nurses with relevant expertise, revising as necessary.
6. Work with ICN to develop a final copy of the ICNP catalogue after the draft catalogue has been submitted for evaluation and coding in ICNP.
7. Assist ICN as appropriate in the dissemination of the ICNP catalogue.

Dissemination of ICNP Catalogues

Once a catalogue is approved by ICN, the catalogue development team is encouraged to disseminate their work as widely as possible to support implementation and further testing and validation.

For more information about ICNP catalogues, please contact Amy Amherdt (icnp@icn.ch).