

SPOTLIGHT ON DIANE CAULFEILD OF CIHI

Question: What is "CIHI" and how does it relate to the North American Collaborating Centre (NACC) for the Family of International Classifications?

Answer: The NACC has worked collaboratively with CIHI as the Canadian organization responsible for the coordination of ICF revision within Canada for the past five years. CIHI is an independent pan-Canadian, not-for-profit organization working to improve the health of Canadians and the health care system by providing quality, reliable and timely health information. CIHI's mandate was established jointly by federal and provincial/territorial ministers of health. No other U.S. or Canadian organization has worked more closely with NCHS on the research and implementation ICF than CIHI.

Question: What is your own professional background?

Answer: My background is in Physical and Occupational Therapy. Throughout my clinical career, I worked predominantly in the field of Physical Therapy with a specialty in paediatrics. This included children and youth with disabilities as well as sports injuries. After receiving my MBA, I moved on to the high tech industry implementing open architecture systems in hospitals in the United States and Canada. Then about three years ago, I joined the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

Question: Exactly what do you do at CIHI besides ICF work?

Answer: At CIHI, I am a Consultant in the Classification division. I am responsible for the development and implementation of the education and training programs for ICD-10-CA/CCI across Canada. I am also responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of the electronic database for ICD-10-CA/CCI. My responsibilities also embrace staying abreast of and being involved with the activities in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) at a National and International level. I am very pleased to be involved with ICF as it draws on my background in health care and clinical rehabilitation.

Question: What kinds of things has CIHI done with ICF over the past few years?

Answer: CIHI played a significant role in the development and testing of

ICIDH-2 and ICF. CIHI continues to promote and monitor the use of ICF across

Canada in academia, clinical practice, government and policy development.

Since the WHO publication of ICF in May 2001, I have been involved with several of the ICF initiatives in North America. I coordinated a project

initiated by NACC to develop Mutually Exclusive Lists for Activities and

Participation. The results of this project were presented at an international ICF meeting in New York in June 2001. I co-chaired the planning and hosting of the 8th annual North American Collaborating Centre

(NACC) conference in Toronto, June 2002, and I delivered a summary of the

conference at the WHO-FIC Centre Heads meeting in Brisbane, Australia in

October 2002.

Question: The ICF Clearinghouse is new. What is your role?

Answer: I serve on the planning committee for Phase I of the ICF Clearinghouse project. I would like to say that "The dissemination of information through the ICF Clearinghouse is an excellent means for sharing ICF information, research and new developments with many interested

and involved people across the United States and Canada. I look forward to

the ongoing development of the Clearinghouse and the many potential opportunities

for two-way communication with the Clearinghouse membership."

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