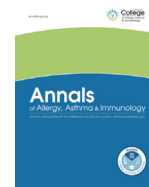




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## Perspective

## Perspectives on the *International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision*, developments in allergy clinical practice in the United States

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### Why Should We Start Discussions Regarding *ICD-11* in the United States?

## ICD

The *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)* has been in use as a recognized global classification system since 1900, when the first version was launched.<sup>1</sup> Its development and continuing evolution reflect the untiring efforts of many experts and contributors. The *ICD* is revised periodically, and respective updates are gradually adopted and implemented in participating countries. Currently, the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)* is in use in more than 100 countries worldwide, translated in 43 different languages, and used as a common language for reporting and monitoring diseases to achieve the standard of being a universal classification.<sup>2</sup>

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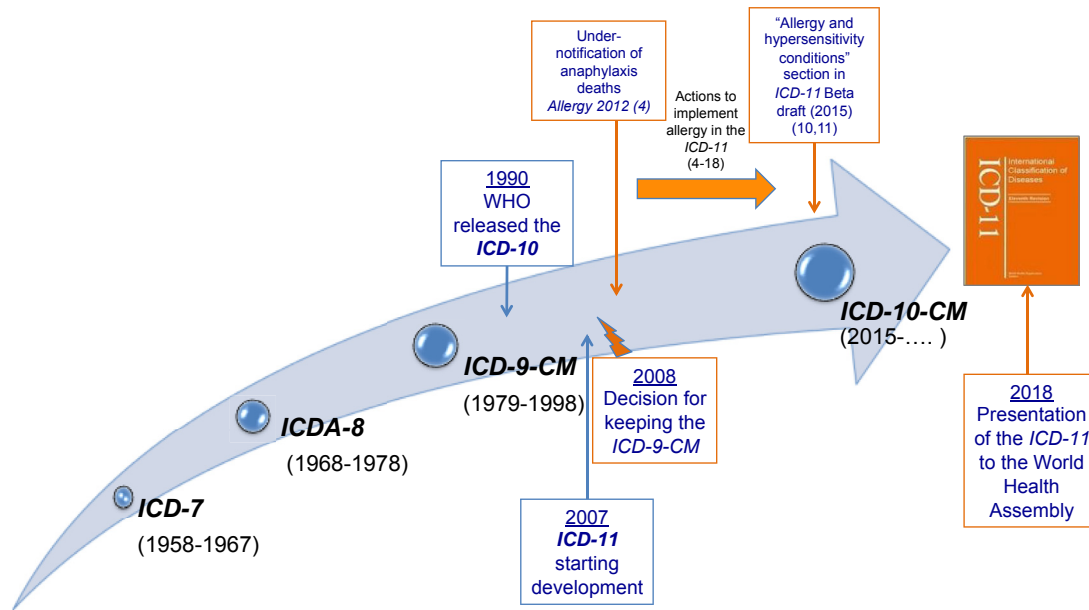
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### Historic Background of the *ICD* in the United States

Together with several other countries, the United States has adopted the *ICD* system of classifying medical diagnosis and procedures as the basis of the coding system. The *ICD* system is used worldwide as a public health tool to monitor mortality and morbidity, as well as other important epidemiologic variables. Different from much of the rest of the world, the United States also uses the *ICD* system to determine health care payment and reimbursement of practitioners and health care services in hospitals. Since the 1960s, some countries have created national modifications of the *ICD* for their own use, and these contain more specific information or details that can be found in the World Health Organization (WHO) *ICD* (eg, Australia has the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification*, Canada has the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Canada*, and the United States has the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification [ICD-10-CM]*). All updates to the main *ICD* are performed through the WHO. The *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* has been used in the United States since 1977. In 1990, the WHO released the 10th revision of the *ICD*, and the United States started the development of national adaptation in 1998, creating the *ICD-10-CM*. American health care practitioners and payers were initially scheduled to adopt the *ICD-10-CM* in 2008, but the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pushed back the deadline.<sup>3</sup> The reason given was that the conversion required health care practitioners and payers to



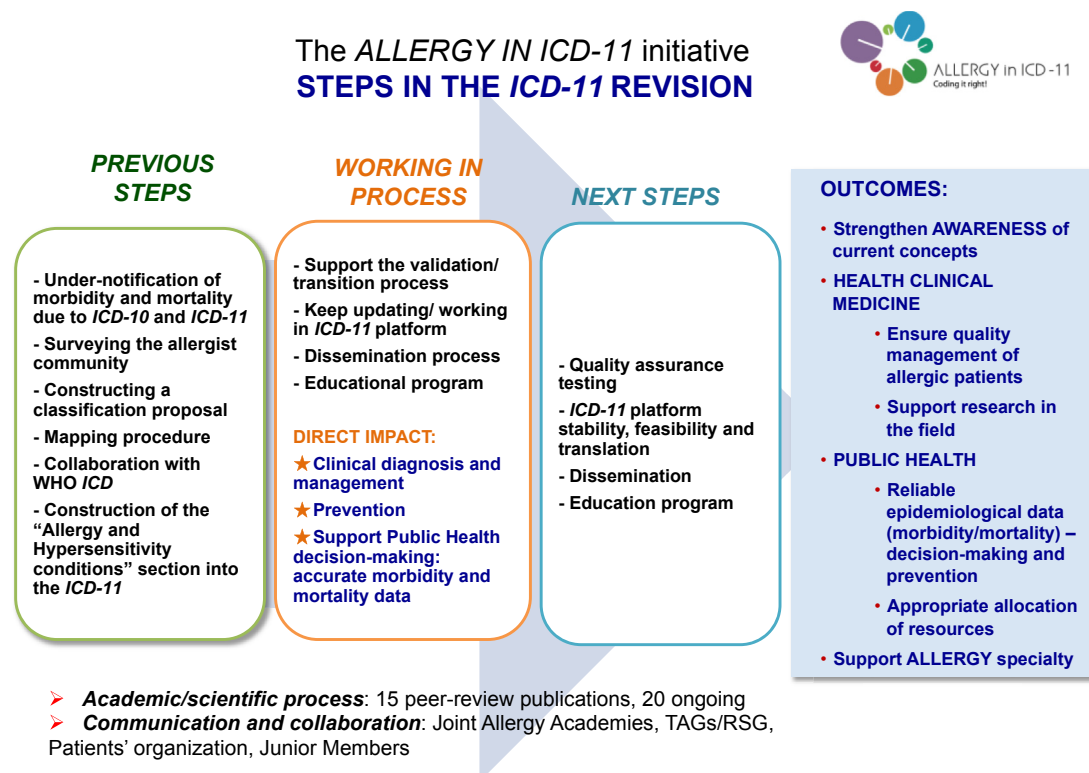
**Figure 1.** Historic background of the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD)* in the United States and the *Allergy in ICD-11 Initiative*. ICD, *International Classification of Diseases*; WHO, *World Health Organization*.

adapt their information system to accommodate an increase in new diagnostic codes. The *ICD-10-CM* was finally launched in 1st October 2015 (Fig 1) and now is mandated for all medical reporting. The CMS also announced a 1-year grace period, allowing for payment even if codes were not correct as long as they were in the same family. In contrast to the 14,000 *ICD-9-CM* codes, it covers more than 70,000 codes to reach more specificity.

In development since 2007, *ICD-11* is intended not only to rectify deficiencies in *ICD-10* and to incorporate changes demanded by

scientific advances but also to take advantage of the possibility of electronic data handling since the publication of *ICD-10* a quarter of a century ago.<sup>2</sup> The final version of *ICD-11* is intended to be presented to the World Health Assembly in 2018. Once the *ICD-11* is approved and available, all the countries currently using national modifications specific for their country will be advised to move to the *ICD-11*.

To create a more appropriate classification for allergic and hypersensitivity conditions in *ICD-11*, a structured and detailed action plan (Fig 2) has been built by providing scientific evidence



**Figure 2.** *Allergy in ICD-11 Initiative* action plan and expected outcomes. ICD, *International Classification of Diseases*; WHO, *World Health Organization*.

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