WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHO/HFS/CAS/C/03.41
Distr.: LIMITED
ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR THE FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Cologne, Germany
19-25 October 2003

Title: The use of the ICF and ISO9999 for expressing intended use of assistive technology

Authors: **Ir. Theo Bougie M.Sc,** BOUGIE Revalidatie Technologie
Co-ordinator INTERBOR Nomenclature ©, sub project leader CLiQ

Purpose: For information

Changing disability policy

Governments are changing their policy for persons with a disability into the target direction of solving participation problems and enabling social integration of those persons through an inclusive policy which considers the needs of those persons. Technology in general and more specifically normal and special technical devices can be of great value to reach these targets.
That means that technology should not focus only on its contribution towards completion and restoration of the body but first of all on to its contribution towards enabling human activities and social participation in many areas.
This new approach is asking for expressing the intended use of assistive technology in terms of its contribution related to human activities and social participation.

Ongoing change in terminology regarding technical devices

Terminology used in relation to technology and technical devices shows a continuing change following the policy changes. Some examples:

Traditional definition of assistive technology (earlier called technical aids): any product, instrument, equipment or technical system used by a disabled person, especially produced or generally available, preventing, compensating, monitoring, relieving or neutralising the impairment, disability or handicap (EU-HEART Study 1996).

Modern definition of assistive technology: any product (including devices, equipment, instruments, technology and software) especially produced or generally available, preventing, compensating, monitoring, relieving or neutralising impairments of body structures and body functions, restrictions in activities and problems in social participation (4^{e} Revision process ISO9999; TC173/SC2, Draft March 2003).

Intended use of assistive technology: characteristic of technical devices expressing its functionality approached from the users perspective (EU-Medical Devices Directive/INTERBOR Nomenclature on Prostheses and Orthoses ©; Issue 2003)

Title of ISO9999: International Classification of Assistive Technology for a person with a disability (4^{e} Revision Process ISO9999, TC173/SC2, Draft title of the Standard). The Standard is classifying assistive technology based on its function.

ICF and ISO9999; tools to express intended use of assistive technology

The paper describes how the ICF and the ISO9999 can be used to express the intended use of assistive technology. The experience comes from the development of a Nomenclature on External Prostheses and Orthoses© by the international organisation of Orthopaedic Companies INTERBOR, based on the functionality of the devices seen from a users perspective. An example of national implementation of the findings is the Dutch CliQ-project, intending to develop a classification of technical devices as an extension of ISO9999 and based on functionality in relation to ICF.

For the purpose of formulating intended use are the classifications ISO9999 and ICF matched and restructured into one new list of possible functions of assistive devices. Terms for known assistive devices from ISO9999 are connected to items from the ICF. Depending on the intended use of a known assistive device, can the connection be with body characteristics (e.g. orthoses), activities (e.g. wheelchairs and communication devices) or participation (e.g. work adaptations). The result is a new table which is accessible along the ICF- and the ISO9999-structure as far as items out of the two underlying classifications are relevant and used.
In addition a "negative version" of the ICF is made, including possible impairments of body functions and body characteristics, restrictions in the execution of activities and participation problems which may be influenced by the use of assistive devices. This negative listing is used to connect user characteristics like impairments of body functions and body characteristics, restrictions in activities and participation problems to known assistive technology.

The result is a classification of assistive devices based on intended use and including user characteristics expressed in the ICF.

The paper will show examples from the INTERBOR Nomenclature on Prostheses and Orthoses© and from the Dutch CliQ-project.

TB/10 July 2003