
Body functions

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000549 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
 Effective date: 01-SEP-03

Definition: Body functions are the physiological or psychological functions of body systems.

Context: Body refers to the human organism as a whole; hence it includes the brain and its functions, ie. the mind. Impairments of body functions are problems in body function such as significant deviation or loss. The Body function classification is a neutral list of functions that can be used to record positive or neutral body function as well as impairment of body function. This element, in conjunction with 'Impairment extent', enables the provision of information about the presence and extent of impairment for given body functions. 'Body functions' and 'Body structure' together represent one of the three dimensions that define the concept 'Disability'.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNNNNNN
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 8

Data Domain: 1 Mental functions (includes, for example, consciousness, orientation, intellectual, temperament and personality, attention and memory).
 2 Sensory functions (includes, for example, seeing, hearing, vestibular and touch).
 3 Voice and speech functions (includes, for example,

- voice, articulation, and fluency and rhythm of speech).
- 4 Functions of the cardiovascular, haematological, immunological and respiratory systems (includes, for example, heart, blood vessel, immunological system and respiration).
 - 5 Functions of the digestive, metabolic, endocrine systems (includes, for example, ingestion, digestion, metabolic and thermoregulatory).
 - 6 Genitourinary and reproductive functions (includes, for example, urinary excretory, sexual, menstruation and procreation).
 - 7 Neuromusculoskeletal and movement related functions (includes, for example, mobility of joints, muscle power, muscle endurance and motor reflex).
 - 8 Function of skin and related structures (includes, for example, protective function of the skin, repair functions of the skin, sensation related to the skin and functions of hair).

Guide For Use: Body function and impairment of body function are classified in the ICDH-2 Beta-2 draft, 1999. Refer to the Information Annexe - Disability for further details.

Where multiple body functions or impairment of body functions are recorded, the following prioritising system may be useful.

- The first recorded body function or impairment of body function is the one having the greatest impact on the individual.
- Second and subsequent recorded body function or impairment of body functions is also of relevance to the individual.
- Up to eight responses may be recorded.

Collection Methods: In order to indicate the presence and, extent of an impairment in relation to a given body function, 'Impairment extent' should also be recorded.

There are numerous possible methods for collecting body function or impairments of body function. Where multiple body functions or impairment of body functions are recorded, the prioritising system in the Guide for use may be useful.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Assistance with activity version 1
relates to the data element Body structures version 1
relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1
relates to the data element concept Disability version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - Australian national version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - International version 1

