

ICD-11 Guide

The 26 chapters of ICD-11

An English quick-reference summary

This guide explains the scope of the 26 chapters in the 2023 ICD-11 structure. It is intended for quick reference and general orientation. It does not replace the official WHO browser or the complete coding rules. Later releases may contain changes: use the release required for your work.

Key fact	Summary
Chapter structure	26 numbered chapters in the 2023 reference
Effective date	In effect since 1 January 2022
Tabular list	Approximately 15,000 entities in Chapters 1-25
Alphabetical index	More than 120,000 terms

Chapter overview

01 Certain infectious or parasitic diseases

Groups diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, helminths and other infectious agents. It also covers important rules for systemic infections and categories of public-health significance. This chapter helps distinguish primary infections, sequelae, disseminated infections and conditions with epidemiological relevance.

02 Neoplasms

Covers benign tumours, primary and secondary malignant tumours, in situ neoplasms, and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour. ICD-11 gives greater emphasis to histopathology and the distinction between primary and secondary tumours. These categories support the interpretation of oncology reports, mortality statistics and cancer registries.

03 Diseases of the blood or blood-forming organs

Includes anaemias, red-cell disorders, coagulation defects, purpura, bleeding conditions and diseases of the spleen. In ICD-11, these conditions are separated from immune-system disorders. This organisation makes it easier to locate non-neoplastic blood disorders, anaemias and bleeding conditions.

04 Diseases of the immune system

A new ICD-11 chapter covering immunodeficiencies, autoinflammatory disorders, allergies or hypersensitivity, thymus diseases and other immune conditions. Many of these disorders previously shared a chapter with blood diseases. They now form a distinct area with more clinical detail and a more consistent structure.

05 Endocrine, nutritional or metabolic diseases

Groups hormonal diseases, nutritional deficiencies and metabolic disorders. Common conditions include diabetes, obesity, thyroid disorders and other disturbances of endocrine and metabolic balance. It is frequently consulted in general clinical practice because of the prevalence and long-term impact of these conditions.

Chapter overview - continued

06 Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders

Covers mental and behavioural disorders within a structure revised from ICD-10. It includes depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, substance-use disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders and other psychiatric conditions. ICD-11 introduces an updated organisation that more closely reflects contemporary clinical practice.

07 Sleep-wake disorders

A new ICD-11 chapter bringing together sleep disorders previously scattered across neurological, mental-health and respiratory chapters. This allows a more coherent and detailed classification. A separate chapter recognises sleep as a clinical area that cuts across several specialties.

08 Diseases of the nervous system

Groups neurological diseases in a structure substantially revised from ICD-10. It includes epilepsy, headache disorders, cerebrovascular diseases, neurodegenerative disorders and other nervous-system conditions. The structure aims to reflect clinical syndromes, anatomical location and current neurological practice more closely.

09 Diseases of the visual system

Covers conditions affecting the eyes and vision, including visual impairment, retinal disorders, glaucoma, cataracts, strabismus and other ophthalmological conditions. It helps classify both common eye diseases and visual conditions that affect everyday functioning.

10 Diseases of the ear or mastoid process

Covers disorders of the external, middle and inner ear, hearing problems, peripheral vertigo, otitis and conditions affecting the mastoid process. This is the reference chapter for common hearing, vestibular and other ear-related conditions.

11 Diseases of the circulatory system

Includes hypertension, heart diseases, arrhythmias, heart failure and other circulatory disorders. It is central to mortality and morbidity statistics and to the monitoring of cardiovascular disease. Cerebrovascular diseases are classified in the nervous-system chapter in ICD-11.

12 Diseases of the respiratory system

Groups asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, bronchiectasis, interstitial lung diseases, respiratory failure and other respiratory conditions. It organises obstructive, restrictive and inflammatory diseases of the respiratory system. The location of an infection should be checked in the official classification.

Chapter overview - continued

13 Diseases of the digestive system

Covers disorders of the oesophagus, stomach, intestines, liver, gallbladder, bile ducts, pancreas and orofacial structures. Its organisation has been substantially revised from ICD-10. This broad chapter brings together functional disorders and organic diseases of the digestive system.

14 Diseases of the skin

Includes dermatitis, psoriasis, skin infections according to their classification rules, blistering diseases, hair and nail disorders, and other dermatological conditions. ICD-11 provides a more clinically oriented organisation for many common skin diseases.

15 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system or connective tissue

Groups arthritis, osteoarthritis, back pain, osteoporosis, autoimmune connective-tissue diseases, muscle disorders and other musculoskeletal conditions. It is particularly relevant to rheumatology, chronic pain and functional disability.

16 Diseases of the genitourinary system

Includes kidney, urinary and genital diseases, such as kidney failure, urinary stones, urinary tract infections, endometriosis and prostate disorders. It brings nephrological, urological and some gynaecological conditions together within a system-based structure.

17 Conditions related to sexual health

A new ICD-11 chapter separating conditions related to sexual health from other body systems. It includes certain dysfunctions and specific conditions that were previously distributed across different chapters. This separation improves conceptual clarity and avoids grouping unlike conditions together.

18 Pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium

Groups obstetric conditions related to pregnancy, labour, childbirth and the postpartum period, including maternal complications. It remains essential for obstetric coding, maternal-health surveillance and the statistical monitoring of maternal mortality.

19 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period

Covers newborn and perinatal conditions, including birth complications, prematurity, fetal distress, neonatal disorders and other conditions beginning around birth. It is important for neonatology, perinatal statistics and early follow-up.

Chapter overview - continued

20 Developmental anomalies

Includes congenital anomalies and other structural or functional developmental disorders identified early in life. This chapter groups developmental conditions of clinical and epidemiological importance in a more consistent way.

21 Symptoms, signs or clinical findings, not elsewhere classified

Groups symptoms, signs, abnormal results and clinical findings when no more specific disease is classified in another chapter. It is particularly useful when the clinical record describes manifestations but does not establish a definitive diagnosis.

22 Injury, poisoning or certain other consequences of external causes

Includes fractures, wounds, burns, poisonings, traumatic complications and other direct consequences of injury or external exposure. It focuses on the harm or immediate clinical consequence experienced by the person.

23 External causes of morbidity or mortality

Describes the external mechanism responsible for injury or death, such as accidents, falls, violence, exposure to mechanical forces and other external events. It complements Chapter 22, which describes the resulting injury.

24 Factors influencing health status or contact with health services

Groups reasons for consultation, follow-up, medical history, screening, contact with health services and other factors affecting care even when they are not diseases themselves. It records the context of care, check-ups and follow-up.

25 Codes for special purposes

Includes codes used for specific situations. For example, COVID-19 codes appear in this chapter because of their importance for surveillance and reporting. Its main role is to support special classification and monitoring needs.

26 Supplementary Chapter Traditional Medicine Conditions - Module I

A new supplementary ICD-11 chapter for recording traditional-medicine conditions in a structured way, separately from the main classification. It does not replace the core clinical classification; it complements it in defined contexts.

Based on: WHO ICD-11 Reference Guide, 2023. Chapter names follow the classification terminology; the explanatory paragraphs are independent summaries by CIE11.com.

[English website](#) | [Official WHO browser](#) (2023 release)