



# Iris automated mortality coding training

## About Iris

Iris is an interactive coding software developed for coding of causes of death and to select the underlying cause of death (UCOD). Iris has been created by a group of experts to strictly follow the ICD coding rules including decisions taken at the Mortality Reference Group of WHO-FIC.

The Iris software is language-independent, based on the use of national dictionaries. It can be operated from a laptop. The cause of death coding and the selection of the UCOD in Iris is entirely automated.

Iris is a free software but not open source. The governing body is the German (Deutsch) Institute of Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI Institute).

## Mortality decision tables

The mortality decision tables are a collection of lists which provide guidance and direction in the application of the selection and modification rules published in Volume 2 of ICD-10. Although originally designed for use with the automated coding software available from the National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA, they are also useful for assisting coders understanding causal relationships.

The application of the MMDS decision tables allows anyone to determine genuine causal relationships. The use of the MMDS decision tables ensures consistent application of the selection and modification rules across jurisdictions and assists with the provision of comparable cause of death data nationally and internationally.

## About this course

This course is offered to meet the needs of mortality coding staff working in institutions where the automated coding software Iris is being introduced. This could be in individual large hospitals, civil registration offices or national statistical offices.

The pre-conditions for installing Iris are that they should be using the ICD-10 health classification system for the data and the International Form of the Medical Certificate of Death. The coders should already have basic knowledge in the use of ICD-10 mortality coding rules and are skilled in using MMDS mortality decision tables (produced by the NCHS), which is the the basis for this course.

## Course aims and objectives

Coding of mortality data is one of the major tasks of health ministries, hospitals and national statistical data collectors. Coded mortality data are used at facility, provincial, national and international levels to describe health status. Coded data are the basis from which diseases and other health conditions can be described and classified into major causes of death that can help identify prevention and public health strategies.

This course is conducted with the objective of improving the knowledge and skills of the participants in Iris automated mortality coding.

## Language

The language of instruction is English. Participants need proficiency in spoken and written English to enable full participation in the program, and in particular, contribution to class discussions.

## Course outcomes

At the conclusion of this program, course participants will be able to:

1. Describe different operations of Iris
2. Use Iris in both text and code entry modes
3. Successfully handle different types of Iris rejects.

## Course prerequisites

Iris automated coder training is offered to the countries who fulfil following pre-requisites:

- Country uses the WHO recommended format of the International Form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.
- All coders are trained in manual mortality coding using mortality decision tables.
- For text entry version of Iris, local language dictionary is available. English language dictionaries are already available. Dictionaries are also available in German, French and Dutch.
- Local IT support is available for implementation and maintenance of Iris.

## Teaching modes

The Iris automated mortality coding skills training course will be offered as a 5-day intensive block. Face-to-face instruction is conducted in a classroom situation that provides optimal learning conditions. Each participant will have individual access to a personal computer which facilitate them to receive hands on experience in Iris automated coding.

## Course inclusions

### Materials, facilities and resources

Each participant is provided with a personal computer with access to internet.

- Microsoft Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7 and 8
- Microsoft. Net Framework
- Microsoft Access 2003 or later, if no other database manager is available
- Oracle database management system
- MS SQL server

### Course materials

- User's manual of the relevant version of Iris.

## Course outline

### Day one

- Welcome
- Introduction to the training course
- Introduction to Iris
- Iris installation requirements
- How to use Iris?
- Iris menus and tools

### Day two

- Iris menus and tools
- MMDS in Iris
- ACME browser
- Iris data bases
- Standardization in Iris
- Handling rejects
- Plan for implementation

### Day three

- Lot preparation
- Table maintenance
- Dictionary development
- Plausibility checks
- Iris versions

### Day four

- Linking local cause of death data bases to Iris
- Coding exercises
- Handling rejects

### Day five

- Coding exercises
- Handling rejects
- Plan for implementation

The program partners on this initiative include: The University of Melbourne, Australia; CDC Foundation, USA; Vital Strategies, USA; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA; World Health Organization, Switzerland.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics partners:



**For more information, contact:**

**E: [CRVS-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:CRVS-info@unimelb.edu.au)**

**W: [mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth](http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth)**

For more information about this course, contact Dr Saman Gamage University of Melbourne Course Co-ordinator  
([udaya.gamage@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:udaya.gamage@unimelb.edu.au))

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