

Michaela Coenen¹, Andrea Weise², Jürg Kesselring², Lisa Holper², Sandra Kus¹, Andreas Leib¹, Gerold Stucki^{3,4,5}, Alarcos Cieza¹

¹ Institute for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (IHRS), ICF Research Branch of WHO FIC CC (DIMDI), LMU Munich (Germany), ² Valens Rehabilitation Centre, Valens (Switzerland), ³ ICF Research Branch of WHO FIC CC (DIMDI) at SPF Nottwil (Switzerland) and at IHRS, LMU Munich (Germany), ⁴ Swiss Paraplegic Research, Nottwil (Switzerland) ⁵ Seminar of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne (Switzerland)

Background

With the approval of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by the World Health Assembly there is now an universally accepted framework to classify and describe functioning, disability and health in individuals with a health condition (e.g. multiple sclerosis (MS)). Since the ICF classification with more than 1400 categories is not applicable in clinical practice, tools such as ICF Core Sets are needed. ICF Core Sets are agreed-on lists of ICF categories to be relevant for the majority of individuals with a specific health condition. ICF Core Sets for MS were developed to link this health condition to salient ICF categories of functioning.

Aims of the study

The objective of the project is the development of ICF Core Sets for MS to specify functioning for comprehensive multidisciplinary clinical assessment and research. The specific aims were to develop:

- (1) Comprehensive ICF Core Set for MS
- (2) Brief ICF Core Set for MS

Methods

The ICF Core Sets for MS were decided during an international ICF Consensus Conference according to a multistage and established decision process which integrates evidence from the following preparatory studies:

- a) an empirical study involving 205 MS patients
- b) a systematic literature review of parameters reported in studies including MS patients published 2002 - 2007
- c) an expert survey including 173 health professionals from 46 countries experienced in the treatment of individuals with MS
- d) a qualitative study using focus groups performed with 27 individuals with MS

Results

- ICF Consensus Conference at Valens Rehabilitation Centre (2 – 4 May, 2008)
- Participants: 21 experts of 7 health professions from 16 countries
- Decision on the Comprehensive ICF Core Set for MS with 138 ICF categories
- Decision on candidate categories* for the Brief ICF Core Set for MS (grey shaded)

Conclusion

With the first version of ICF Core Sets for MS we can now rely on a generally agreed-on and international standard of ICF categories to be relevant in individuals with MS to specify functioning. The ICF Core Sets for MS will have a profound impact on the treatment and rehabilitation of MS patients, clinical practice and research studies. A world-wide validation process is now halfway.

Contact

- Michaela Coenen:
Institute for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences,
Marchioninstr. 17, 81377 Munich (Germany)
michaela.coenen@med.uni-muenchen.de
- Andrea Weise:
Valens Rehabilitation Centre,
7317 Valens (Switzerland)
a.weise@klinik-valens.ch

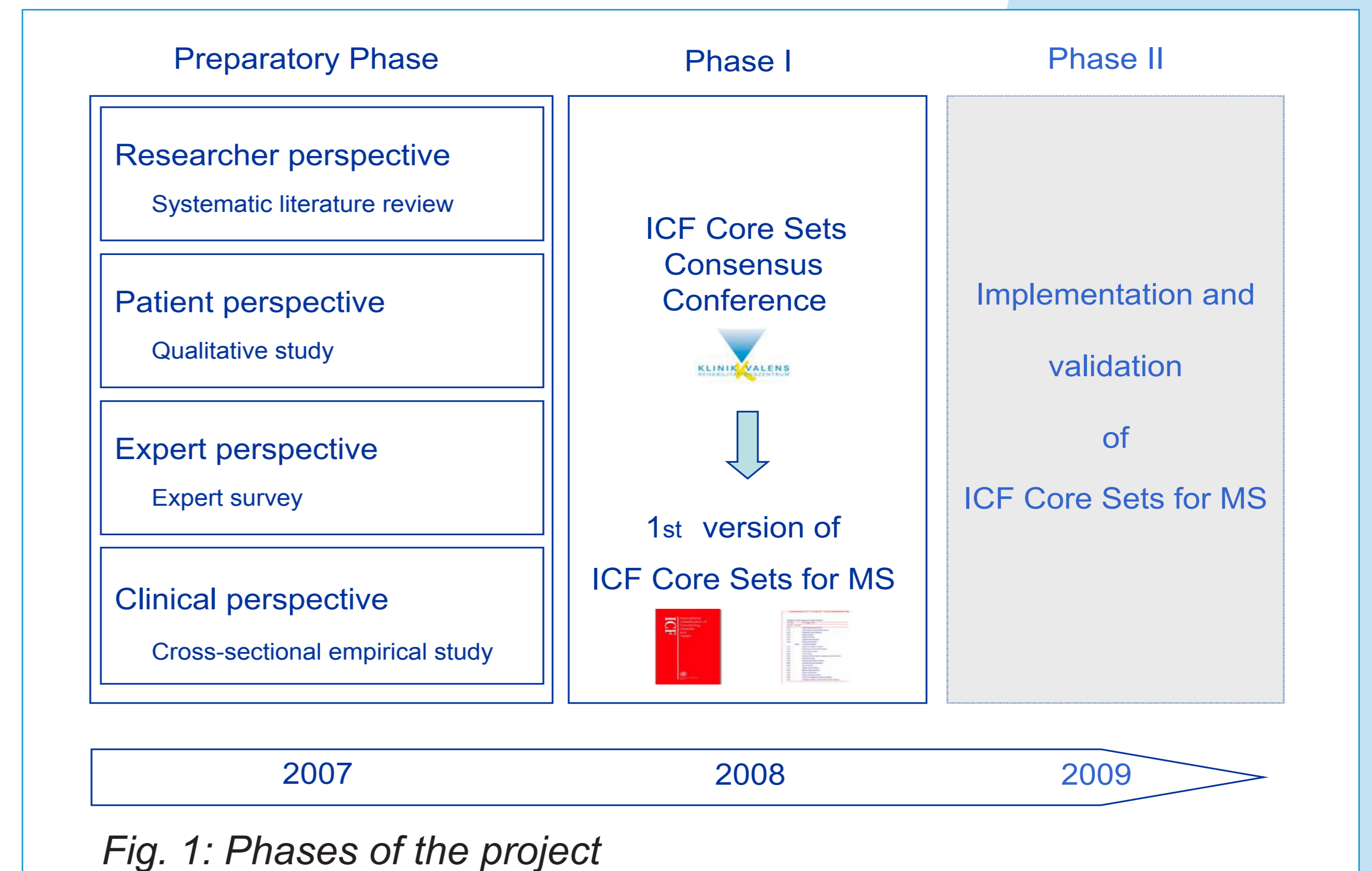


Fig. 1: Phases of the project

Body Functions	Activities & Participation
b114 Orientation functions	d110 Watching
b126 Temperament and personality functions	d155 Acquiring skills
b1300 Energy level	d160 Focusing attention
b1301 Motivation	d163 Thinking
b1308 Energy and drive functions, other specified (Fatigue)	d166 Reading
b134 Sleep functions	d170 Writing
b140 Attention functions	d175 Solving problems
b144 Memory functions	d177 Making decisions
b152 Emotional functions	d210 Undertaking a single task
b156 Perceptual functions	d220 Undertaking multiple tasks
b164 Higher-level cognitive functions	d230 Carrying out daily routine
b210 Seeing functions	d240 Handling stress and other psychological demands
b235 Vestibular functions	d330 Speaking
b260 Proprioceptive function	d350 Conversation
b265 Touch function	d360 Using communication devices and techniques
b270 Sensory functions related to temperature and other stimuli	d410 Changing basic body position
b280 Sensation of pain	d415 Maintaining a body position
b310 Voice functions	d420 Transferring oneself
b320 Articulation functions	d430 Lifting and carrying objects
b330 Fluency and rhythm of speech functions	d440 Fine hand use
b445 Respiratory muscle functions	d445 Hand and arm use
b455 Exercise tolerance functions	d450 Walking
b5104 Salivation	d455 Moving around
b5105 Swallowing	d460 Moving around in different locations
b525 Defecation functions	d465 Moving around using equipment
b5500 Body temperature	d470 Using transportation
b5508 Thermoregulatory functions, other specified (Sensitivity to heat)	d475 Driving
b5508 Thermoregulatory functions, other specified (Sensitivity to cold)	d510 Washing oneself
b620 Urination functions	d520 Caring for body parts
b640 Sexual functions	d530 Toileting
b710 Mobility of joint functions	d540 Dressing
b730 Muscle power functions	d550 Eating
b735 Muscle tone functions	d560 Drinking
b740 Muscle endurance functions	d570 Looking after one's health
b750 Motor reflex functions	d620 Acquisition of goods and services
b760 Control of voluntary movement functions	d630 Preparing meals
b7650 Involuntary contractions of muscles	d640 Doing housework
b7651 Tremor	d650 Caring for household objects
b770 Gait pattern functions	d660 Assisting others
b780 Sensations related to muscles and movement functions	d710 Basic interpersonal interactions
e110 Structure of brain	d720 Complex interpersonal interactions
e120 Spinal cord and related structures	d750 Informal social relationships
e610 Structure of urinary system	d760 Family relationships
e730 Structure of upper extremity	d770 Intimate relationships
e750 Structure of lower extremity	d825 Vocational training
e760 Structure of trunk	d830 Higher education
e810 Structure of areas of skin	d845 Acquiring, keeping and terminating a job
	d850 Remunerative employment
	d860 Basic economic transactions
	d870 Economic self-sufficiency
	d910 Community life
	d920 Recreation and leisure
	d930 Religion and spirituality

* Candidate ICF categories for the Brief ICF Core Set for MS (grey shaded). The decision regarding the definitive inclusion of the respective ICF categories will be made after completing the validation phase.

Environmental Factors
e1101 Drugs
e1108 Products or substances for personal consumption, other specified (Special formulations of food to maintain safety and nutrition)
e1115 Products and technology for personal use in daily living
e1120 Products and technology for personal indoor and outdoor mobility and transportation
e1125 Products and technology for communication
e1135 Products and technology for employment
e1150 Design, construction and building products and technology of buildings for public use
e1155 Design, construction and building products and technology of buildings for private use
e1165 Assets
e2250 Temperature
e2251 Humidity
e2253 Precipitation
e310 Immediate family
e315 Extended family
e320 Friends
e325 Acquaintances, peers, colleagues, neighbours and community members
e330 People in positions of authority
e340 Personal care providers and personal assistants
e355 Health professionals
e360 Other professionals
e410 Individual attitudes of immediate family members
e415 Individual attitudes of extended family members
e420 Individual attitudes of friends
e425 Individual attitudes of acquaintances, peers, colleagues, neighbours and community members
e430 Individual attitudes of people in positions of authority
e440 Individual attitudes of personal care providers and personal assistants
e450 Individual attitudes of health professionals
e460 Societal attitudes
e515 Architecture and construction services, systems and policies
e525 Housing services, systems and policies
e540 Transportation services, systems and policies
e550 Legal services, systems and policies
e555 Associations and organizational services, systems and policies
e570 Social security services, systems and policies
e575 General social support services, systems and policies
e580 Health services, systems and policies
e585 Education and training services, systems and policies
e590 Labour and employment services, systems and policies