RELACESIS – Latin American and the Caribbean Network for the strengthening Health Information Systems

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Central American and Caribbean Countries

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Pan American Health Organization

• The oldest international public health agency in the world. Founded in 1902.

• Provides technical cooperation and mobilize partnerships to improve health and quality of life in the countries of the Americas.

• 48 Member States and territories.

• It serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO).

• WHO and PAHO are member of the United Nations System (UNS).
Health Information and Analysis Unit (CHA/HA)

• Coordinate PAHO efforts to collect, manage, analyze and disseminate data and health statistics from Member States and the PAHO technical areas.

• Contribute to strengthen Health Information Systems (HIS) and health statistics through technical cooperation.
What is RELACSIS?

• RELACSIS is a component of the PAHO Regional Plan of Action for Strengthening Vital and Health Statistics.

• Community of practices for the development and strengthening Health Information Systems (HIS) in Latin America and the Caribbean, through technical cooperation with government and non-government institutions in the countries to build capacity in the region, share and dissemination of best practices and strengthening Health Information Systems.

Purpose

• Coordinate regional and horizontal efforts to promote South-South cooperation.
How RELAC/SIS work

• Exchange of best practices. Countries and international agencies share their practices, and other countries evaluate them to give them a Regional approach. 50 different practices were available.

• 12 working groups, comprised of teams from the Ministries of Health, Statistical Institutes and other institutions involved in strengthening health information systems.

• About 5,000 members registered.
How RELAC/SIS work

Virtual component on www.relacsis.org

- Share experiences in the implementation and use of the SIS for decision-making; research results, reports, etc.
- Forums (public and private) discussion to exchange lessons learned and best practices implemented by countries.
- Working groups organized on topics of interest.
How RELACSIM work

Face to face: annual meetings to discuss and follow up on the annual work plan.
South-South Cooperation to Strengthen Health Information Systems in the Americas: the RELACSIS experience

**WG12.** Health inequality measurement

**WG13.** English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti

**WG11.** Coverage and quality of health information

**WG10.** Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

**WG9.** Methods on active search and recategorization of maternal deaths

**WG2.** Online course on medical information coding.

**WG3.** Implementation of automated mortality coding system.

**WG4.** Online course on completion of death certificates.

**WG8.** PAHO/WHO Network of Collaborating Centers and National Reference Centers for the WHO Family of International Classifications
WG2. On line course for ICD 10 mortality coders (led by Argentina and Mexico).

- 3 month course with tutoring. Available in the PAHO virtual campus.

- Participants: Argentina, Equador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru, Cuba, Colombia and Panama.

- Courses in 2014-2015: 204 students from different countries.

- Courses in 2016: 120 students from different countries.
WG2. Strengthen ICD 10 mortality use (led by Argentina and Mexico).

- 1 month face-to-face course for tutors in ICD-10: 2016, in Mexico, about 35 participants.
- Cloning the virtual course ICD-10 for the national level to Colombia and Chile.

Print version of the 3 volumes of ICD-10 2015, update to the 2014 (Mexico contributed to the translation of the update)
**WG3. Implementation of a computer-assisted mortality coding system (led by Mexico).**

- **Purpose:** to improve the quality of mortality statistics in our region.

- Mexico developed a Spanish version of the MMDS (system developed by the US).

- **Participants:** Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Colombia, Panama, Peru and Dominican Republic.

- Mexico was trained in IRIS by the IRIS Institute and they are developing a proposal to change from IRIS to MMDS.
Collaborating Centres (CC) and National Reference Centres (NRC):

- CC in Argentina (CACE)
- CC in Mexico (CEMECE)
- CC in Venezuela (CEVECE)
- CC in the United States (NACC, Mayo Clinic & Stanford University),
- CNR in Chile
- CNR in Colombia
- CNR in Cuba (under designation)
- In 2013 CC Barcelona joined the Network (under designation)
- CARPHA, Sub-regional health public agency to the Caribbean.
WG4. Virtual course on properly completing death certificate

The course is available in Spanish, English and French on the PAHO Virtual Campus: http://cursos.campusvirtualsp.org/?lang=en
WG4. Virtual course on properly completing death certificate

- The course is available on the Virtual Campus of PAHO: more than 30,000 medical doctors participated in 2014-2016.
- The database of exercises for the Spanish online course has been updated in October 2015.
- It was translated into English and French.
- Participants: all countries of the Americas and other regions of the world.
Many thanks

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