

Guide For Use: 1 Intellectual/learning disability is associated with impairment of mental functions with limitations in a range of daily activities and restriction in participation in a range of likely areas. Supports may be needed throughout life, the level of support tends to be consistent over a period of time but may change in association with changes in life circumstances. This grouping will include such groupings as, for example, development delay, intellectual, specific learning/attention deficit disorder and autism.

2 Psychiatric disability is associated with clinically recognisable symptoms and behaviour patterns associated with distress that may impair personal functioning in normal social activity. Impairments of global and specific mental functions are experienced with associated activity limitations and participation restrictions in a range of areas. Supports needed may vary in range, and may be required with intermittent intensity during the course of the condition. Change in level of supports tends to be related to changes in the level of impairment. This grouping includes conditions such as schizophrenia, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, addictive behaviours, personality disorders, stress, psychosis, depression and adjustment disorders.

3 Sensory/speech disability is associated with impairment of the eye, ear and related structures. Extent of impairment, and activity limitation tend to remain consistent for long periods. Participation restrictions are in areas of communication primarily, but may include mobility. Availability of a specific range of environmental factors will affect the level of disability experienced by people in the sensory grouping. Once in place, the level of support tends to be relatively consistent. Sensory disability will include such groupings as, for example, deaf, blind, vision, and hearing and speech.

4 Physical/diverse disability is associated with the presence of a common impairment, which may have diverse effects within and among individuals, including effects on physical activities such as mobility. The range and extent of activity limitation and participation restriction will vary with the extent of impairment. Environmental factors and support needs are related to areas of activity limitation and participation restriction, and may be required for long periods. Level of supports may vary with both life changes and extent of impairment. This grouping includes such groupings as, for example, physical, acquired brain injury, neurological and persons experiencing chronic medical conditions that impact on the ability to perform physical activities or may affect internal organs such as lung or liver.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Disability version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: World Health Organisation (WHO) 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: World Health Organisation.
National Community Services Data Dictionary Version 2

Source Organisation: World Health Organisation
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: This way of grouping disabilities has been accepted for use in the CSDA MDS and has been developed and modified over a period of years in cooperation with government and non-government organisations, including consumer representative organisations. Examples given have been subject to discussion. Where there is more than one class that could be used, they are have been placed according to the class that is most appropriate for data users, such as the CSDA MDS network.
The purpose of this classification is to ensure that data are collected in a consistent way, reflecting current usage in the field. The categories should also relate to other relevant data collections.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
