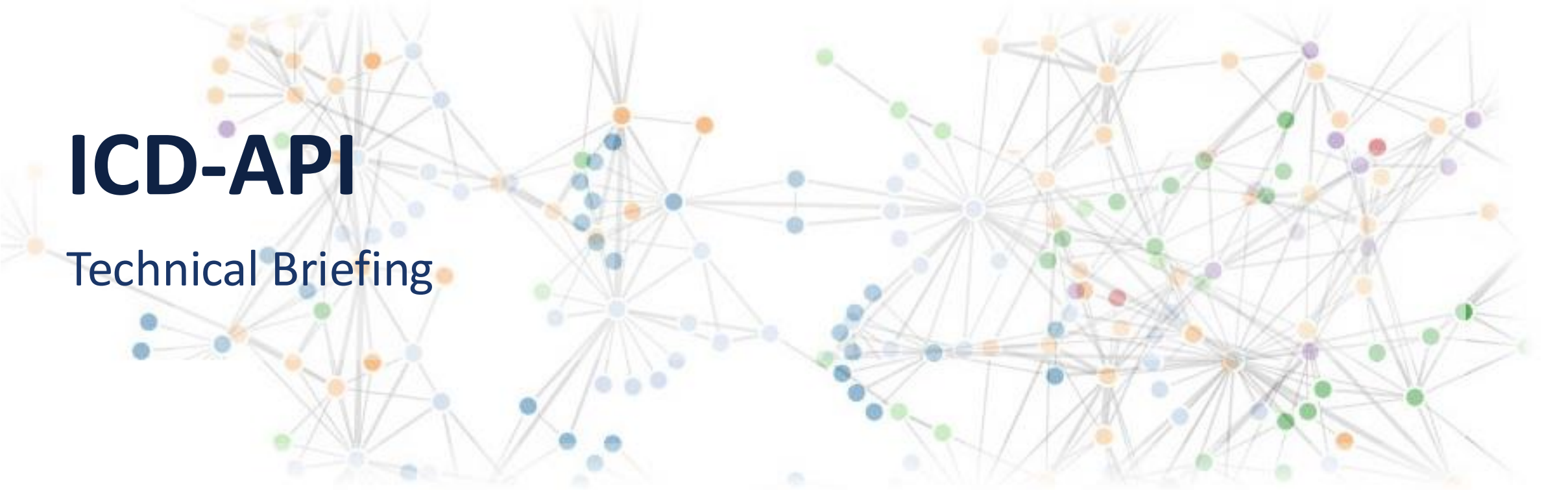




ICD-API

Technical Briefing

PART 1 ICD-11 content and structure – what to expect from the API

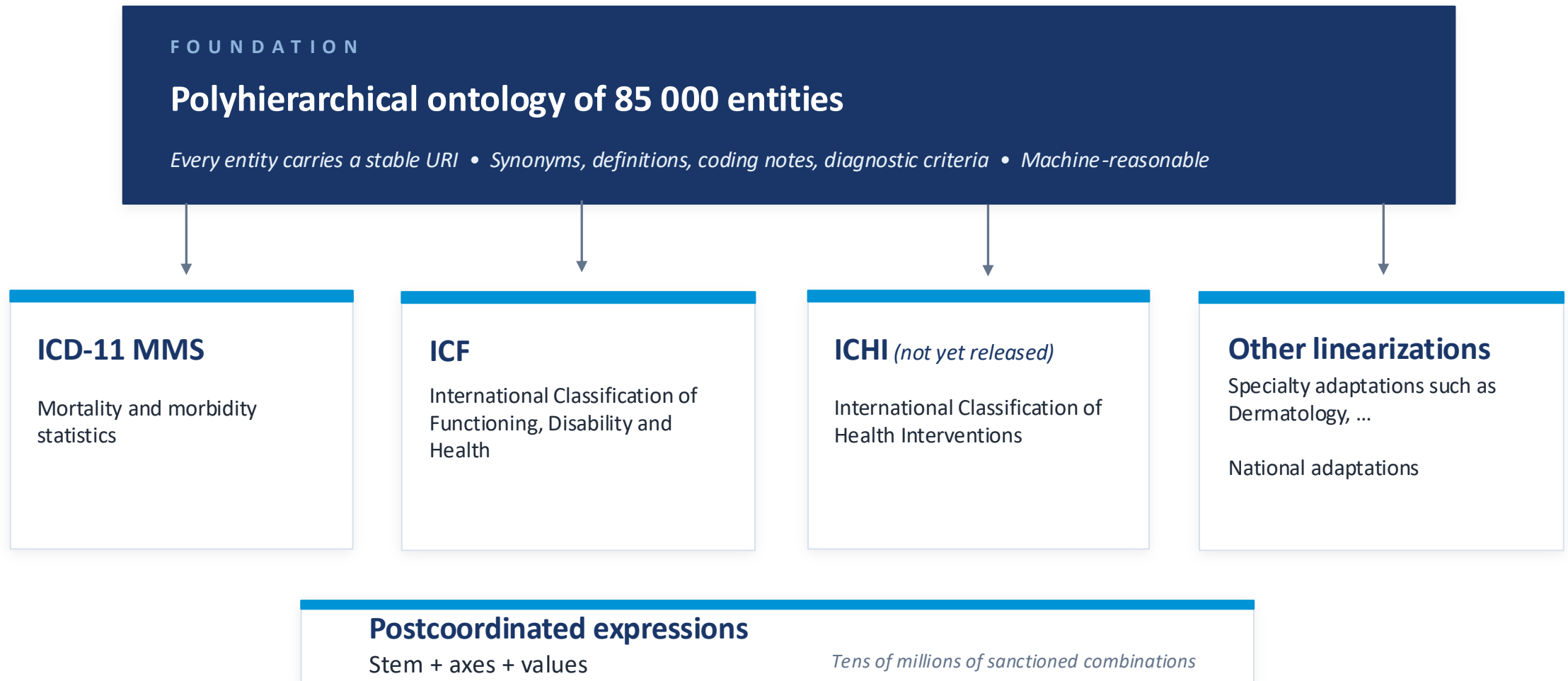
PART 2 Technical description of the ICD-API

PART 1

ICD-11 content and structure

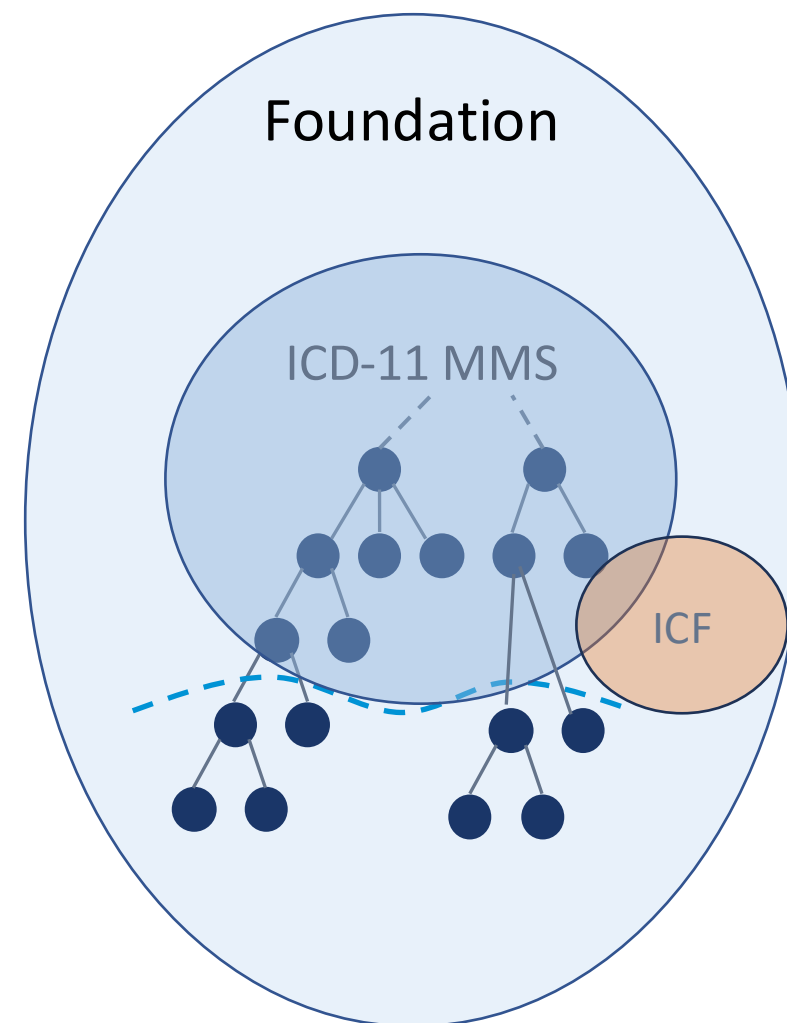
What the API delivers: Foundation, linearizations, terms and languages, postcoordination

Architecture: one Foundation, many views



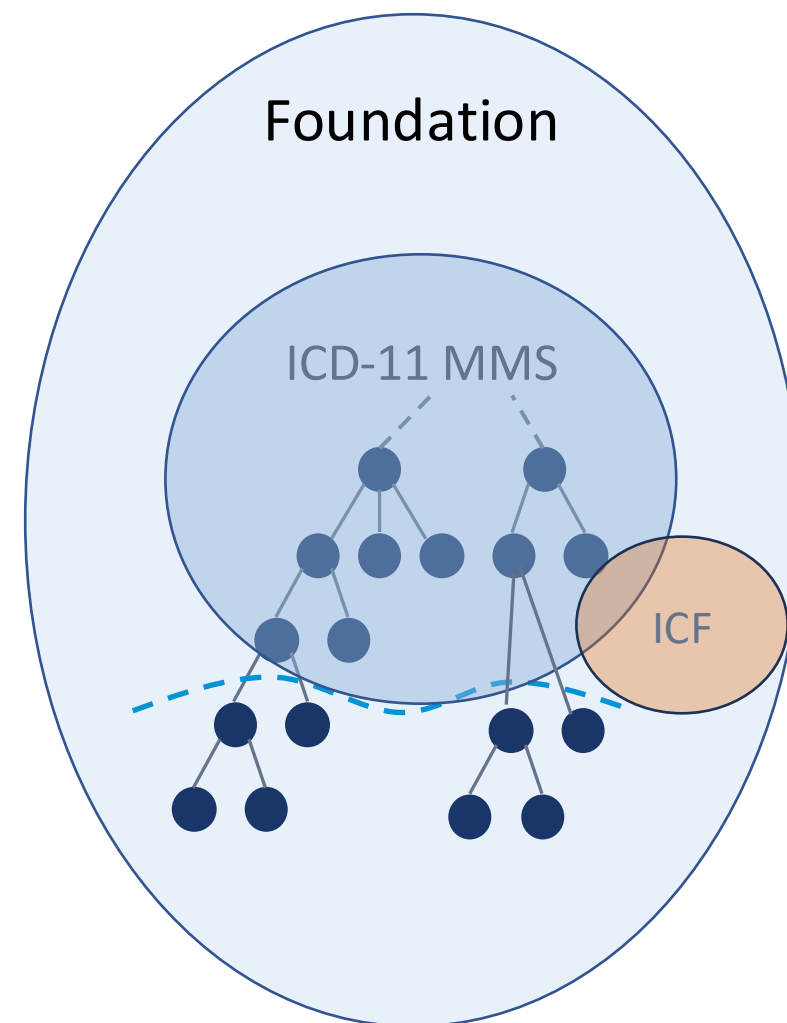
The Foundation: one common terminology

- Common terminology for all WHO-FIC classifications
 - ICD-11, ICF and ICHI draw on the same pool of entities
- Polyhierarchical
 - An entity can have more than one parent, e.g. by body system and by aetiology
- Expanded level of detail combined with broader coverage than ICD-10
 - Every entity carries a stable URI, preferred term, synonyms and definition

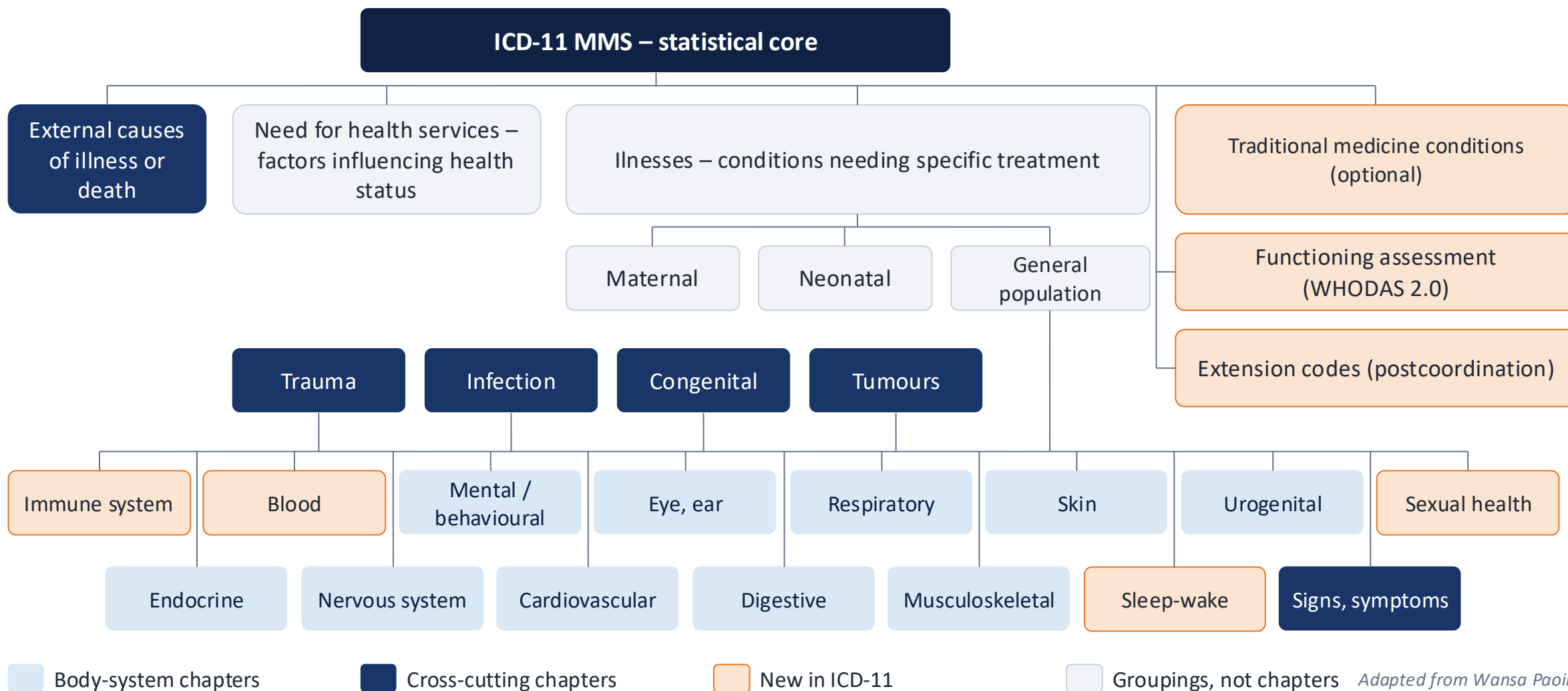


Linearizations: derived views for specific uses

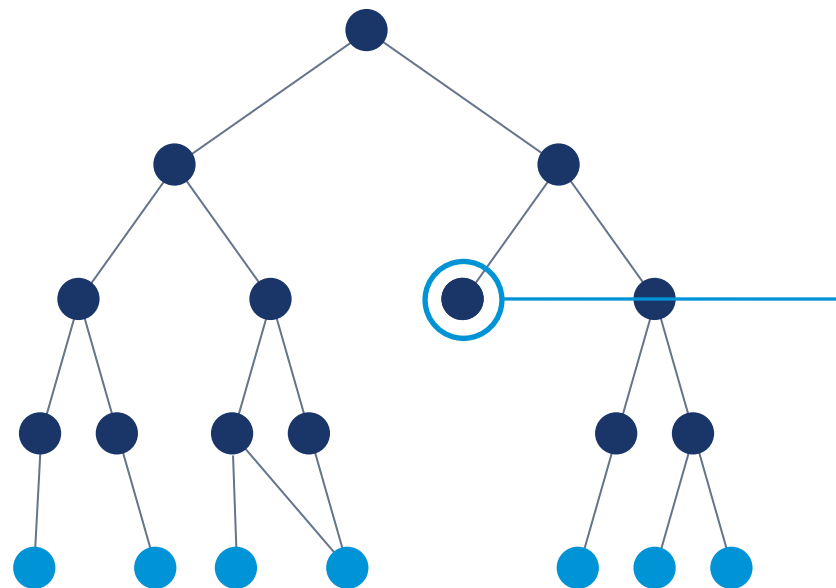
- Derived from the Foundation
 - ICD-11 MMS, ICF and ICHI are linearizations
 - Specialty adaptations and national modifications are further linearizations
- Single parenting
 - Every entity appears in exactly one location
- Mutually exclusive categories
- Residual categories (“other specified”, “unspecified”) complete the coverage



ICD-11 MMS: 26 chapters plus supplementary sections



Every entity: one URI, terms and synonyms in every language



- MMS entity: ICD code + URI
- Foundation-only entity: URI

polyhierarchy: a Foundation entity may have several parents

BA00 Essential hypertension			URI http://id.who.int/icd/entity/761947693
LANGUAGE	PREFERRED TERM	SYNONYMS (INDEX TERMS)	
English	Essential hypertension	primary hypertension, high blood pressure, arterial hypertension, HTN, ...	
French	Hypertension essentielle	hypertension artérielle, hypertension primaire, ...	
Chinese	原发性高血压	高血压, ...	
... 35 languages preferred term			synonyms

Identical structure for each of the 85 000 entities. Search runs on all terms in all languages – “Google style”, without a separate index or training.

17 000

statistical categories (codes)

85 000

entities

130 000

terms

> 2 million

terms with automated postcoordination

> 80 million

manual code combinations

ICD-10

14 000 categories

separate index and rule base, terminology link needed

One entity, browsed in English and Chinese

ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics2026-01

EN

BA00

Browse

Coding Tool

Info

▽ ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics

▷ 01 Certain infectious or parasitic diseases

▷ 02 Neoplasms

▷ 03 Diseases of the blood or blood-forming organs

▷ 04 Diseases of the immune system

▷ 05 Endocrine, nutritional or metabolic diseases

▷ 06 Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders

▷ 07 Sleep-wake disorders

▷ 08 Diseases of the nervous system

▷ 09 Diseases of the visual system

▷ 10 Diseases of the ear or mastoid process

▽ 11 Diseases of the circulatory system

▽ Hypertensive diseases

▽ BA00 Essential hypertension

BA00.0 Combined diastolic and systolic hypertension

BA00.1 Isolated diastolic hypertension

BA00 Essential hypertension

Foundation URI: <http://id.who.int/icd/entity/761947693>

Code: BA00

Description

Essential (primary) hypertension, accounting for 95% of all cases of hypertension, is defined as high blood pressure for which a secondary cause cannot be found.

Inclusions

high blood pressure

Exclusions

Cerebrovascular diseases (8B00-8B2Z)

Background retinopathy and retinal vascular changes (9B78.1)

Exclusions from above levels [Show all \[10\] ▼](#)

Coded Elsewhere

Pre-existing essential hypertension complicating pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium (JA20.0)

BA00 原发性高血压

基础组件URI: <http://id.who.int/icd/entity/761947693>

编码: BA00

描述

原发性高血压占有所有高血压病例的95%，被定义为无法找到继发原因的高血压。

包括术语

高血压

不包括术语

脑血管病 (8B00-8B2Z)

背景视网膜病变与视网膜血管改变 (9B78.1)

上层中的不包括 [显示全部 \[10\] ▼](#)

编码至他处

原有特发性高血压并发于妊娠、分娩或产褥期 (JA20.0)

Language	Open as second language
Arabic	Arabic
Chinese	✓ Chinese
Czech	Czech
✓ English	English
French	French
German Prerelease	German Prerelease
Kazakh	Kazakh
Latin	Latin
Portuguese	Portuguese
Russian	Russian
Slovak	Slovak
Spanish	Spanish
Swedish	Swedish
Turkish	Turkish
Uzbek	Uzbek

Same URI, same code (BA00), same content – title, definition, inclusions, exclusions – in every language. 35 languages available, 21 in preparation.

Postcoordination: 41 sanctioned axes – extension codes

Lean stem codes plus controlled extension codes — the software helps with valid combinations for each stem.



Value-set support for automated postcoordination: values offered for each axis are narrowed to those appropriate to the stem — burns get body-surface values; fractures get anatomy and open/closed; pneumonia gets organism and resistance. However, these are not sanctioning, but proposed useful dimensions with their proposed useful values.

Postcoordination exists also for stem codes, e.g. **Diabetes mellitus Type 1** postcoordinated with **Diabetic Retinopathy**

One common core, additional depth where needed

Level for statistical reporting

The linearization (ICD-11 MMS) above the line is the common core reported by all WHO Member States nationally and internationally.

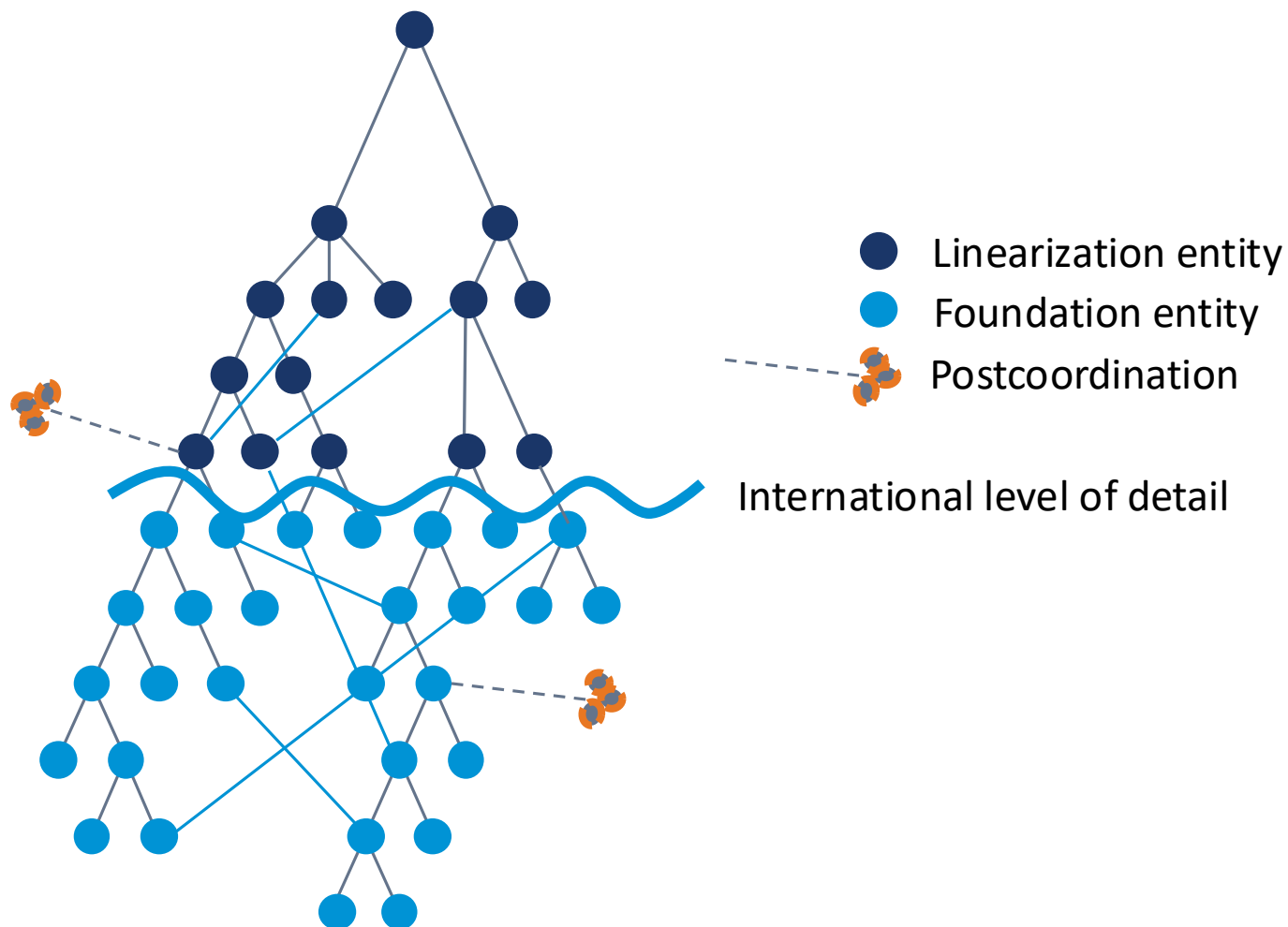
National coding depth

Foundation entities below the line can be used to code in more detail; each still maps to exactly one MMS code.

Postcoordination

Extension codes add detail (laterality, severity, aetiology, ...) without adding categories.

The three mechanisms are used jointly; the API exposes all of them.



Coding Tool: laterality resolved from free text

Directly supported postcoordination

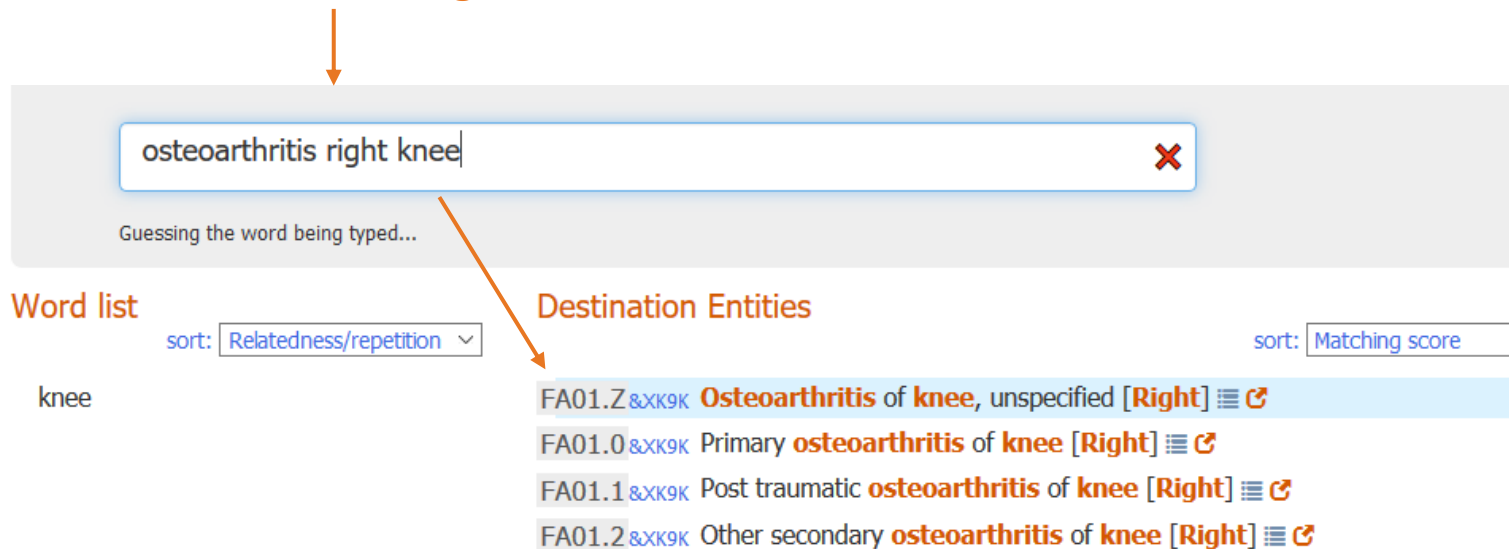
The Coding Tool resolves a free-text diagnostic statement to the best-matching stem code and proposes the extension code it can read from the text.

It eases the user's task; it does not replace sanctioning – which combinations are valid remains defined by the postcoordination rules.

The same behaviour is available through the API search endpoints.

Type a diagnostic statement into the Coding Tool, e.g.

“Osteoarthritis of right knee”



The screenshot shows the Coding Tool interface. At the top, a text input field contains "osteoarthritis right knee" with a red 'X' icon on the right. Below the input field, it says "Guessing the word being typed...". An orange arrow points from the text "Osteoarthritis of right knee" to the input field. Below the input field, there are two sections: "Word list" and "Destination Entities". The "Word list" section has a "sort:" dropdown menu set to "Relatedness/repetition" and shows the word "knee". The "Destination Entities" section has a "sort:" dropdown menu set to "Matching score" and shows a list of four results. The first result, "FA01.Z & XK9K Osteoarthritis of knee, unspecified [Right]", is highlighted in blue. An orange arrow points from the input field to the first result.

Word list	Destination Entities
sort: Relatedness/repetition	sort: Matching score
knee	FA01.Z & XK9K Osteoarthritis of knee, unspecified [Right]
	FA01.0 & XK9K Primary osteoarthritis of knee [Right]
	FA01.1 & XK9K Post traumatic osteoarthritis of knee [Right]
	FA01.2 & XK9K Other secondary osteoarthritis of knee [Right]

Result: the tool returns the best match **FA01.Z & XK9K** – the stem code for osteoarthritis of knee combined with the extension code for **Right** (laterality), XK9K.

ICD-11 at scale: the global system in use

5.5 million

searches per day (Aug 2026)

300 000

offline downloads

132

countries in transition

14

countries reporting live

17 000+

statistical categories in ICD-11

FREE

all tools, API & coding software

ICD in numbers

Hundreds of millions

of deaths globally

Billions

of health encounters

~70%

of global health budgets

31 000+

PubMed ICD-11 publications

18 000+

update proposals processed

300 specialists

from 70 countries

99 countries

with active proposal platform users

35 languages

ICD-11 available in

PART 2

Technical description

The ICD-API: endpoints, entities, search and postcoordination in practice