Classifications of Function in 21st Century: What are they good for?

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Purpose: This course will present how and when to use classifications in childhood disabilities.

Course Summary:
With the availability of a family of classifications focused on function, practitioners and researchers should consider how one or more of the classifications may be useful for their programs, practice and research. Their primary purpose is to discriminate meaningfully among functional variations in a health condition. Examples will include use of the Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS), the Manual Abilities Classification System (MACS), the Communication Function Classification System (CFCS), and the Eating and Drinking Abilities Classification System (EDACS). Clinical cases will be presented that consider the classifications separately and together as a functional profile. Research uses of the classifications will also be summarized and discussed.

Learning Objective 1: To understand the purposes of classification systems
Learning Objective 2: To classify using the GMFCS, MACS, CFCS, & EDACS.
Learning Objective 3: To use a functional profile of classifications to assist clinical decision-making and research objectives.
Learning Objective 4: To describe how classification systems should not be used?

What are classification systems, what properties do they need to have, and why do we need them?
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## Classification systems used in cerebral palsy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>GMFCS</th>
<th>MACS</th>
<th>CFCS</th>
<th>EDACS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Walks without limitations</td>
<td>Handles objects easily and successfully</td>
<td>Sends and receives information with familiar and unfamiliar partners effectively and efficiently</td>
<td>Eats and drinks safely and efficiently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Walks with limitations</td>
<td>Handles most objects but with somewhat reduced quality and/or speed of achievement</td>
<td>Sends and receives information with familiar and unfamiliar partners but may need extra time</td>
<td>Eats and drinks safely but with some limits to efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Walks using a hand-held mobility device</td>
<td>Handles objects with difficulty; needs help to prepare and/or modify activities</td>
<td>Sends and receives information with familiar partners effectively, but not with unfamiliar partners</td>
<td>Eats and drinks with some limitations to safety; there may be limitations to efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Self-mobility with limitations; may use powered mobility</td>
<td>Handles a limited selection of easily managed objects in adapted situations</td>
<td>Inconsistently sends and/or receives information even with familiar partners</td>
<td>Eats and drinks with significant limitations to safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Transported in a manual wheelchair</td>
<td>Does not handle objects and has severely limited ability to perform even simple actions</td>
<td>Seldom effectively sends and receives information even with familiar partners</td>
<td>Unable to eat and drink safely – tube feeding may be considered to provide nutrition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GMFCS, Gross Motor Function Classification System; MACS, Manual Ability Classification System; CFCS, Communication Function Classification System, EDACS, Eating & Drinking Ability Classification System

**Overview and updates:** Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS)

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Overview and updates: Manual Abilities Classification System (MACS)
http://www.macs.nu/

Overview and updates: Communication Function Classification System (CFCS)
www.cfcs.us

Overview and updates: Eating & Drinking Ability Classification System (EDACS)
http://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/get-involved/eating_drinking_classification.htm
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5 minutes Break Time

Case Presentations - how clinical management might be influenced by knowing an individual’s functional profile of GMFCS, MACS, CFCS, and EDACS.

Open Discussions & Questions: Purposes and limitations of classification

Conclusions and future directions
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Articles on Development of the Classification Systems


Current Knowledge (Selected Articles)


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