

BREAKING NEWS

Post COVID-19 Condition

Janet V Diaz, Margaret Herridge, Silvia Bertagnolio, et al. Towards a universal understanding of post COVID-19 condition. Bull World Health Organ 2021;99:901–903.

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*"In September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a consultation with Member States on the International Classification of Diseases ICD-10 and ICD-11 codes (Fig. 1) and proposed the use of the term **post COVID-19 condition** to diagnose and code patients with this condition. This terminology does not attribute causality and does not refer to any duration, unlike other terms such as chronic COVID-19 syndrome; late sequelae of COVID-19; long COVID; long haul COVID; long-term COVID-19; post COVID syndrome; post-acute COVID-19; post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection and others."*

"The foundational work was initiated, but the development of a case definition is an ongoing process. WHO will request further inputs using a methodologically rigorous approach through a Delphi process. More evidence is needed to determine the relationship between the time course from exposure to infection and the duration and severity of the acute episode of COVID-19 on the one hand, and the recovery from or persistence of the post COVID-19 condition on the other."

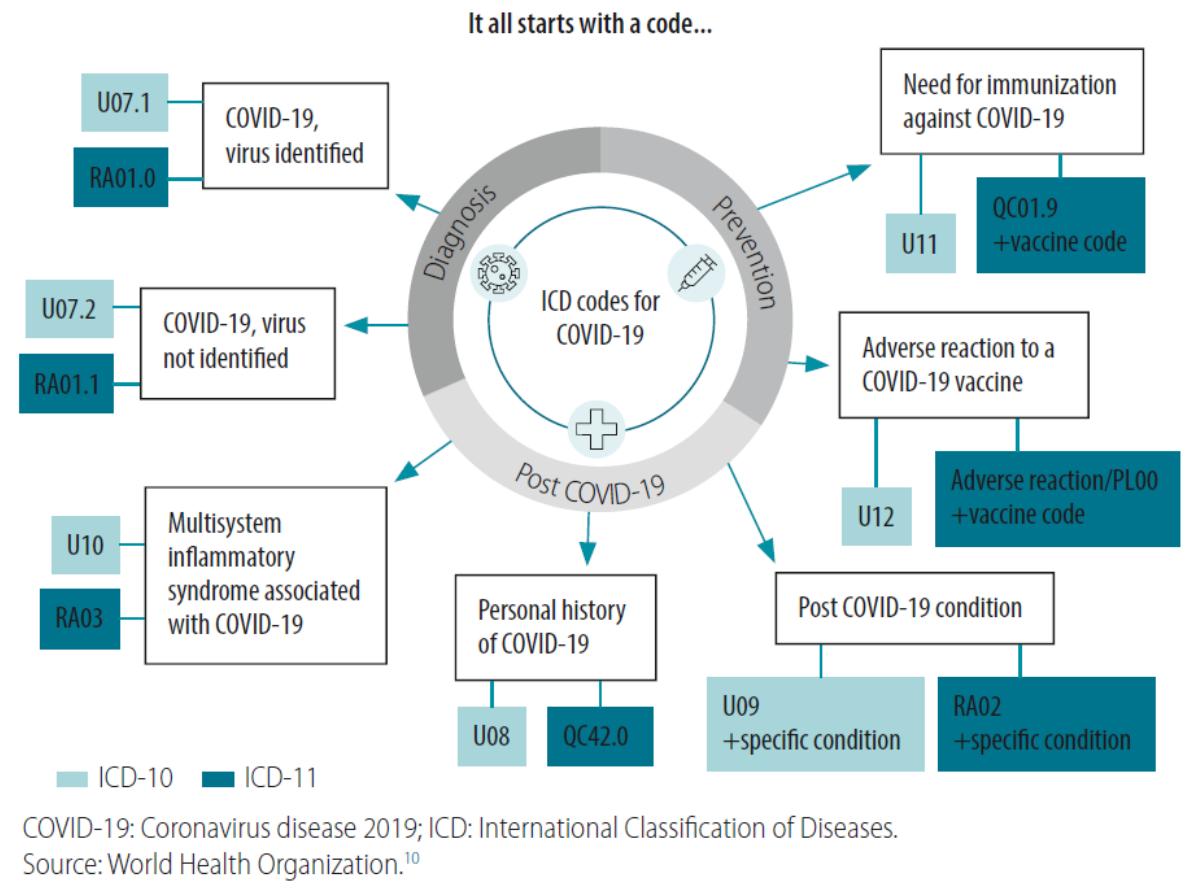
"Fewer than 1% (45/5000) of ongoing COVID-19 research studies are focused on studying post COVID-19 condition – or its associated terminologies.¹⁴ Most studies

are based on patients from hospital series. For this reason, new research from primary care and community-based settings is essential to incorporate the experience of those patients who were less likely to be hospitalized, including younger patients, and those who had either a mild infection with fewer symptoms or were undiagnosed."

"New investigations must include a focus on children, women, older adults, diverse ethnic origins and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and marginalized populations including incarcerated individuals, migrants, refugees and all those suffering stigma and discrimination."

"Finally, this work must be multicentre and multidisciplinary, and involve international cooperation. Collecting standardized and harmonized data on post COVID-19 condition will be paramount, as available published studies are small, heterogeneous in nature, too short in their follow-up, and with narrow focus on a few organ systems assessed. To support systematic collection of comparable data across the world, WHO has developed a Global Clinical Platform and standardized case report forms for acute COVID-19 and post COVID-19 condition that are available for all Member States and interested parties."

Fig. 1. Emergency use ICD codes for COVID-19 disease outbreak



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