International classification of functioning, disability and health: a framework for understanding elderly problems

1 Vahid Rashedi ; 2 Masoud Gharib
1- Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences, Hamedan University of Medical Sciences & Health Services, Hamedan, Iran
2- Pediatric Neurorehabilitation Research Center, University of Social Welfare & Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Abstract:
Aging is a natural trend in normal life and nobody can prevent it. Increasing number of aging could be a common future issue for many societies, and the percentage of world population that is elderly is expected to double from 11% to 22% by 2050.

Elderly often meet several health-care providers, often of different occupational professions and with different professional languages. The use of uniform and unambiguous concepts and terms facilitate communication between the professions, make the social services management process more uniform and increase the legal certainty for the individual. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, known more commonly as ICF was developed by the World Health Organization and belongs to the family of international classifications with the aim to provide a unified and standard language and framework for the description of health and health-related states. It has been suggested that the ICF is useful for assessment, documentation and evaluation of health-care interventions.

The ICF Geriatric core set provides the potential framework for standardized reporting and measurement and setting the framework along the continuum of care. The ICF conceptual framework illustrates how facilitators and barriers in the environment interact with and influence health and functioning. In