Pediatric neurorehabilitation and the ICF.

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Abstract: INTRODUCTION: One of the many unintended uses of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is the clinical world of rehabilitation. The intrinsic qualities of ICF, especially in its children and youth version (ICF-CY) seem to perfectly match the needs for the complex process of pediatric neurorehabilitation. OBJECTIVES: We here report on the effect that the implementation of ICF-CY had on task members and families when it was used as a guiding structure in framing the rehabilitation project in a pediatric outpatient clinic dealing with adolescents with cerebral palsy and complex needs. The two-year experience was positive and an ad hoc questionnaire delivered to team members and families returned very positive remarks. CONCLUSION: The main messages coming from this experience is on the feasibility of the introduction of ICF-CY language and the bio-psycho-social model in the described setting and on the positive response by the stakeholders.

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