

# Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) and World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>1</sup>

## PART 1: International Classification of Disease and Functioning

- A. International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)
- B. International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

*A. International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10):* Classification of electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) requires two or more codes. (The WHO does not use the term “Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity.” Rather they call it, “idiopathic environmental intolerance (IEI) attributed to electromagnetic fields (EMF).”

*EHS or IEI should be classified under:*

- (1) Cause – Two codes are available for illness/injury resulting from exposure:
  - **W90.0** for exposure to **radiofrequency radiation** (RFR). Note this includes **intermediate frequencies** (IF) that flow along wires, **microwave radiation** (MWR) as well as **millimeter waves** (mmW).
  - **W90.8** for exposure to other non-ionizing radiation, for example **extremely low frequency** (ELF) **electric and magnetic fields** (EMF) and **ground current**. <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/W90>
- (2) Effects – various classifications are available for the illnesses/injuries caused by the exposure to EMF radiation, for example ...
  - **ICD-10 G43** for **migraine**:  
<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/G43>
  - **ICD-10 R42** for **dizziness** and **giddiness**:  
<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/R42>
  - **ICD-10 H93.1** for **tinnitus**:  
<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en#/H93.1>

*B. International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF):* ICF Checklist – Version 2.1a, Clinician Form for disability benefits, ill-health pensions etc.  
<http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/icfchecklist.pdf?ua=1>

You must state your disability in the presence of EMF radiation, e.g.:

- *“my vision is so badly affected that it would be unsafe for me to take charge of a group of 8 year olds while on a school trip in a busy city”*,
- *“my thoughts become so jammed in the presence of EMF Wi-Fi in the hospital that it would be unsafe for me to administer drugs to my patients in hospital”*

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information provided by ESUK

Further details:

## PART 2: Activity Limitations & Participation Restrictions

- *Activity* is the execution of a task or action by an individual. Participation is involvement in a life situation.
- *Activity limitations* are difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.
- *Participation restrictions* are problems an individual may have in involvement in life situations.
- The *Performance qualifier* indicates the *extent of Participation restriction* by describing the person's *actual performance* of a task or action *in his or her current environment*. Because the current environment brings in the societal context, performance can also be understood as "involvement in a life situation" or "the lived experience" of people in the actual context in which they live. This context includes the environmental factors – all aspects of the physical, social and attitudinal world that can be coded using the Environmental.
- The Performance qualifier measures the difficulty the respondent experiences in *doing things, assuming that they want to do them*.
- The *Capacity qualifier* indicates the *extent of Activity limitation* by describing the *person's ability* to execute a task or an action. The Capacity qualifier focuses on limitations that are inherent or intrinsic features of the person themselves. These limitations should be direct manifestations of the respondent's health state, *without the assistance*. By assistance we mean the help of another person, or assistance provided by an adapted or specially designed tool or vehicle, or any form of environmental modification to a room, home, workplace etc. The level of capacity should be judged relative to that normally expected of the person, or the person's capacity before they acquired their health condition.

## PART 3: Environmental Factors

- *Environmental factors* make up the physical, social and attitudinal environment in which people live and conduct their lives.
- *Qualifier in environment, Barriers or facilitator:*

0 No barriers	0 No facilitator
1 Mild barriers	+1 Mild facilitator
2 Moderate barriers	+2 Moderate facilitator
3 Severe barriers	+3 Substantial facilitator
4 Complete barriers	+4 Complete facilitator