



## Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

Following a successful third tranche of funding by the Medical Research Council Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research ([MRC HTMR](#)), DIRUM has now been expanded to include a searchable repository of methodological papers relating to resource use measurement. There are 94 papers currently catalogued, covering issues such as validation and reliability testing, comparison of alternative methods and methods to reduce recall bias.

Changes have also been made to the DIRUM website to enhance its look and expand the number of resource use measures. DIRUM is proving to be popular, having now been visited 8600 times with over 2300 downloads. The most frequently downloaded measure is the Annotated Cost Questionnaire for Completion by Patients, by Sally Thompson and Sarah Wordsworth.

To ensure the continued success of DIRUM, however, we ask health economists to ***routinely submit your resource use measures.***

## PhD opportunity

Creating a generic resource-use measure is challenging because analyses may be conducted from various perspectives (e.g. NHS, societal), the level of detail required may also vary depending on trial setting (e.g. secondary care, primary care, community interventions), and there are regional and temporal variations in terminology. A well validated generic instrument with a modular structure would be valuable for trialists through reducing unnecessary work and making trial results more transparent and directly comparable with one another.

With funding from the MRC HTMR, Professor Will Hollingworth and colleagues from the University of Bristol are currently recruiting a PhD student to develop a preliminary generic modular resource-use measure that could be used for economic evaluation in a wide range of RCTs of healthcare.

Details on how to apply for this and other studentships in trial methodological research are available via the HTMR [website](#).

## Recent research

A Bristol-Bangor-Oxford collaboration, led by Dr Jo Thorn, has been funded to identify a core set of economically important resource-use items that are suitable for future inclusion in a modular patient-reported resource-use measure. The research will involve a Delphi panel; more details to follow.

## Latest News

The MRC Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research has launched a [Health Economic Resource Use and Costs Working Group](#).

Led by Dr Sian Noble, Professor Dyfrig Hughes and Dr Sarah Wordsworth, the Working Group aims to bring together health economists within the MRC Methodology Hubs **and across the UK** to improve methods for resource-use measurement, costing and analysis in randomised controlled trials through collaborative methodological research and dissemination.

The working group's principal focus concerns:

- Design of resource use and cost data collection in RCTs
- Measurement issues
- Questionnaire design
- Patient burden
- Costing methods
- Analysis of resource use and cost data

Please contact Sian Noble [S.M.Noble@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:S.M.Noble@bristol.ac.uk) if you are interested in joining this group.

Click [here to submit](#) your resource use measure, diary, log or form