



Winter 2012

Issue 4

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About DIRUM

Submissions

Welcome to DIRUM



DIRUM is a project funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC HTMR) Instruments for Resource Use Measurement. Led in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol, Birmingham and the London School of Economics and Political Science, it is a practical, open-access database of resource-use questionnaires for health economists.

DIRUM Workshop

DIRUM workshop presentations available for download [here](#)

DIRUM Paper

Published in the July 2012 issue of Value in Health. A summary is available from [here](#)

Recent Instruments

DIRUM contains 58 instruments. The most recently added are shown below:

RemCare CSRI
Barry Hounsome

Cost of Illness Questionnaire
Bernd Schweikert

BeST Follow-up Questionnaire
E Castelnovo

MATREX COPD Cost Questionnaire
A Blyth

NESTAC Parent's Questionnaire
A Vanoli

DIRUM

Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

On behalf of the project team, Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year for 2013 and welcome to this fourth DIRUM newsletter. Funded by the Medical Research Council Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research ([MRC HTMR](#)), the DIRUM database currently holds 58 resource use measures (RUMs). The aim continues to be to maintain DIRUM as a practical, open-access database of resource use questionnaires for trial health economists. Since going live in June 2011, there have been over a thousand downloads of instruments from the website and over 4700 visits from 88 countries.

Many trials are multi-national and as a result, evaluate technologies across different health care systems. In a recent [paper](#) we report on a study to widen the scope of DIRUM to include measures from countries in addition to the UK. To date, a German and an Australian RUM have been included into the database. We urge all our international visitors (and our UK visitors, too) to consider submitting their RUMs by clicking [here](#).

Recent projects and papers

We are currently reviewing published economic evaluations and other cost studies that cite each of the 38 RUMs that were listed in DIRUM on August 2012. The purpose is to provide evidence of how the measures are used in practice. In particular, we are interested in which items of resource use are most frequently measured using patient recall and how estimates compare if more than one method of data collection is used for the estimation of the same resource items. The review utilises the search engines which allow for citation searches, namely Google Scholar, ISI Web of Science and Scopus, and is expected to be completed early 2013.

A paper detailing the proceedings of the DIRUM workshop held at Birmingham University in October 2011 has recently been submitted for publications. The presentations from the workshop are available for [download](#).

Taxonomy for Resource Use Measures

We recently reviewed the terms used for resource use questionnaires, logs and diaries in published HTA monographs, and found considerable lack of clarity on who did what, how, and to whom. Based on this, we decided to write a new taxonomy, which is presented in the panel, opposite.

Taxonomy for RUMs

The transparent reporting of resource use measures must indicate each of these components:

- 1 The source of data (patient, patient proxy e.g. carer, parent or guardian, observation of contemporary events, medical records, other databases)
- 2 Who completes the RUM (patient or their proxy, researcher or healthcare professional)
- 3 How it is administered (to self [the patient], face-to-face, telephone, on-line)
- 4 How it is recorded (form, questionnaire, log, diary)

Examples might include:

Carer-completed, face-to-face administered diary, based on patient-recall; Parent-completed on-line questionnaire, based on proxy recall.

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