



DIRUM Newsletter – January 2012

On behalf of the project team, welcome to this second DIRUM newsletter. DIRUM is the Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement, a resource developed by health economists to serve the needs of health economics. DIRUM, which now includes 34 resource use instruments, can be accessed at www.DIRUM.org.

A workshop held at Birmingham University was attended by 40 people who contributed to discussions on methods for the collection of resource use data (based on patient recall) within clinical trials. The speakers were (l-r): Dr Will Hollingworth (Bristol), Dr Sian Noble (Bristol), Professor Jo Coast (Birmingham), Professor Dyfrig Hughes (Bangor), Professor David Cohen (Glamorgan), Dr Sarah Wordsworth (Oxford), Professor Martin Knapp (LSE) and Dr Colin Ridyard (Bangor) (taking photo!).



Topics discussed included: reviews of existing resource use measures (the Client Service Receipt Inventory and the Annotated Cost Questionnaire), a demonstration of www.DIRUM.org, a discussion of methodological issues including preventing missing resource use data and validity assessment for resource use measures, and development of a good practice guideline. Group and panel discussions resulted in a short-listing of priority areas for defining a research agenda.

Database demonstrations were also held recently at the Welsh Health Economist Group winter meeting hosted by Glamorgan University and at the Medical Research Council North West Hub for Trials Methodology Research 'Showcase' meeting in Liverpool.

Funded by the Medical Research Council Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research (MRC HTMR), DIRUM is a practical, open-access database of resource-use questionnaires for trial health economists. To date, the DIRUM website has been visited over two thousand times by people from 65 separate countries; in addition, over 500 instrument downloads have been made since being launched at the 2011 summer HESG meeting.

The more instruments that are made available for sharing via DIRUM, the more scope there is for improving the methods for resource use data collection and increasing the accuracy of cost estimates. A number of people have expressed a willingness to share their resource use measures and add them to the database but are still in the process of obtaining formal permission from their principal investigators, lead health economists etc. We would urge them to persevere in this worthwhile endeavour.

As usual, if you have a resource-use instrument based on patient recall, such as a questionnaire, form or diary and, which you think we should include in DIRUM, please contact us: info@dirum.org . Alternatively, you can fill out the “Submit instrument” button at our website.

Once again, thank you for supporting DIRUM and please continue to visit our website: <http://www.DIRUM.org>

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on behalf of the DIRUM project team.