

Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

## What is ISRUM?

ISRUM was an MRC Hubs for Trial Methodology Research-funded study to identify a core set of economically important resource-use items suitable for future inclusion in a modular patient-reported resource-use measure. Designed to review current resource-use instruments in DIRUM, the aim was to assess similarities and differences between these, extract a list of potential resource-use items and conduct a Delphi Survey to achieve a consensus opinion on which of these items should be included in a generic RUM.

Health economists with experience of working on trials in the UK were recruited to an expert Delphi panel via an email to the Health Economists' Study Group mailing list. They were asked to rate 60 key resource-use items on a scale of 1 to 9 according to how important they felt the item was in a generic context.

Over 40 health economists took part in the survey and reduced the list of items down to 10 which they believed should be present in a generic RUM. Several areas suitable for forming additional 'bolt-on' modules were also identified.

## DIRUM Developments

The next step for ISRUM is to develop the identified items into a standardised patient-reported resource-use instrument for use in randomised controlled trials and incorporate it into the DIRUM database. In addition to ISRUM, the results of a DIRUM-conceived review of current instruments have been written up for publication. The review aims to collate the evidence concerning the validity and reliability of resource-use measures based on patient recall with the aim of summarising current knowledge and developing better measures in the future. It involves a comprehensive search strategy combining healthcare resource terms, utilisation terms, patient-reported measure terms and validation/reliability concepts. Both the Delphi survey and review publications will be disseminated via the DIRUM website in the coming months.

In October 2015, a workshop on Health Economic Analysis plans (HEAPs) was jointly organized by Bangor, Oxford and Bristol universities. As a follow-up, we plan to use the experience gained with ISRUM to conduct a Delphi survey to identify the key components for HEAPs.

DIRUM would make a natural future repository for HEAPs and also, following a [paper](#) by Chris Sampson, a potential future repository for economic models, too.

If you would like to consider submitting HEAPs or models to DIRUM or have any other thoughts on this, please contact the team directly at the e-mail address, below.

E-mail: [info@dirum.org](mailto:info@dirum.org)

Web: [www.DIRUM.org](http://www.DIRUM.org)

## Latest News

DIRUM continues to go from strength to strength.

Since its inception in June 2011, there have been over 18,000 visits and almost 6,000 instrument downloads. DIRUM as a database has been cited in over 40 peer-reviewed publications with 16 of these referring to the original DIRUM development paper.

In the 12 months to June 2017, there were over 3,400 site visits with 57% of these coming from outside the UK.

The DIRUM database team are particularly interested in RUMs from around the world and if you wish to include your own instruments on the site, please do not hesitate to contact us on [info@dirum.org](mailto:info@dirum.org) or use the database submissions tab.

A paper on core items for a standardised resource-use measure (ISRUM) has been accepted for publication in Value in Health. DIRUM was instrumental in this study, providing the resource use measures and the 60 items rated in the initial Delphi Survey.

It is an exciting development because we now have the potential to generate a standardised instrument for future clinical trials.