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.

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