

## DIRUM Newsletter – June 2012

### Happy first birthday, DIRUM!

Having first gone live on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011, [DIRUM](#) has proven itself a useful tool to health economists involved in trial-based economic evaluations. With over 3000 visits and over 600 downloads, it has been used as far afield as Australia, Canada and Japan.

In that time, as a team, we have given demonstrations and lectures, culminating in a very well-received workshop held at Birmingham University last October. The proceedings of this workshop have now been submitted for publication.

We also have had a paper on DIRUM accepted in March this year for publication by the Journal *Value in Health*. The article explains how the database was designed and the background work that went into its design. We will announce all DIRUM-related papers, as they are published, on the website.

Funded by the Medical Research Council [Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research](#) (MRC HTMR), the DIRUM database currently catalogues 37 instruments for healthcare resource use measurement. Whilst the aim continues to be to maintain DIRUM as a practical, open-access database of resource-use measures for trial health economists, the remit has now expanded to:

- develop DIRUM into a repository of empirical evidence on the validity and reliability of resource use measures;
- expand DIRUM to also include resource use measures from outside the UK (Canada, Australia, USA);
- conduct a review of economic evaluations in which resource use measures catalogued in DIRUM have been used;
- conduct an updated systematic review of the empirical evidence on the validity and reliability, and factors affecting the validity of resource use measures

As always, 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. If you have a resource-use measure based on patient recall, such as a questionnaire or diary, which you think we should include in DIRUM, please contact us: [info@dirum.org](mailto:info@dirum.org). Alternatively, you can fill out the “suggest an instrument” form on the database submissions tab.

The next demonstration of DIRUM will be at the [Cancer Outcomes Conference](#) 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

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

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