



Summer 2013

Issue 5

Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

The DIRUM initiative is now in its third year and continues to strive towards improved methodologies for resource use measurement. DIRUM catalogues 63 instruments, contains reference to 39 methodological papers related to resource use measurement, and is listed as a tool for researchers on Research Design Service websites and the ISPOR International Digest of Databases. DIRUM is used increasingly by health economists designing economic evaluations alongside clinical trials.

In addition to facilitating access to resource use measures, DIRUM collaborators are actively engaged in research activities related to costing methodology. These include a review of the use of measures based on patient recall, in the context of other methods (e.g. data abstracted from medical notes, hospital episode statistics, case report forms) – acknowledging that questionnaires and diaries are rarely used in isolation.

We also aim to develop DIRUM into a repository of empirical evidence on the validity and reliability of resource use measures. A systematic review is currently underway to identify relevant studies for inclusion.

Current projects

DIRUM researchers Dr Sian Noble, Professor Jo Coast and Professor Dyfrig Hughes were awarded MRC Hubs for Trials Methodology Research Network funds to evaluate whether estimates of resource are subject to less recall bias when patients receive a resource use log (RUL). Pilot work has indicated that the use of RULs may be useful in reducing the amount of missing data for community-based resource use) and that it is well-received by patients. The present project aims to build on these encouraging findings by evaluating whether those patients who received a RUL had more accurate estimates of their general practice resource use than those who did not.

Dr Anita Patel and Margaret Heslin (CEMPH, King's College London) are examining different approaches to costing medications data which, because of their volume, often require a disproportionate amount of health economists' time.

Recent papers

Marques E, Johnson EC, Gooberman-Hill R, Blom AW, Noble S. Using resource use logs to reduce the amount of missing data in economic evaluations alongside trials. *Value Health*. 2013; 16(1): 195-201.

Thorn JC, Coast J, Cohen D, Hollingworth W, Knapp M, Noble SM, Ridyard C, Wordsworth S, Hughes D. Resource-use measurement based on patient recall: issues and challenges for economic evaluation. *Appl Health Econ Health Policy*. 2013; 11(3): 155-61.

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MRC Hubs for Trials
Methodology Research



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About DIRUM

Submissions

Welcome to DIRUM



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

DIRUM is a project funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) Hubs for Trials Methodology Research (MRC HTM) in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol, Birmingham, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the University of York. It is a practical, open-access database of resource-use health economists.

Recent Instruments

DIRUM contains 63 instruments. The most recently added are shown below:

TORPEDO health Service Diary
Rachel Elliott

SYCAMORE Questionnaire
Dalia Dawoud & Dyfrig Hughes

Latest news

The Health Economics Research Centre - University of Oxford - will be hosting a costing methodology [workshop](#) on the 10th October. Funded by the MRC, the aim is to create guidance for costing methodology within clinical trials.

Dr Colin Ridyard and Dr Jo Thorn will be presenting on "A review of the use of resource use instruments based on patient recall, in relation to other methods of resource use estimation", and "Empirical evidence for the validity and reliability of resource-use measures based on patient recall: a systematic review", respectively, at the 2nd Clinical Trials Methodology Conference in Edinburgh.

A poster describing DIRUM was presented by Dr David Whitehurst at the annual meeting of the Vancouver Health Economics Methodology (Van-HEM) group earlier this year.

Please [submit](#) your resource use measure, diary, log or form.