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


Please submit your resource use measure, diary, log or form.

E-mail: info@dirum.org  Web: www.DIRUM.org