

## Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement

Welcome to this sixth DIRUM newsletter. Funded by the Medical Research Council Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research ([MRC HTMR](#)), DIRUM exists to help health economists improve the methods for collecting data on patients' healthcare (and other) resource use. Since going live in June 2011, there have been nearly two thousand downloads of instruments from the website and over 7,000 visits from 92 countries.

We are always on the lookout for new resource use measures and related methodological research. If you have used a resource use measure in a recent clinical trial or have evidence on the validity, reliability or comparability with other methods (e.g. electronic databases of routinely collected data) then please consider disseminating on DIRUM.

Details on how to submit a resource use measure can be found [here](#).

## Recent projects and presentations

Our review of published economic evaluations and other cost studies citing the 38 resource use measures listed in DIRUM as of August 2012 is now complete. The purpose of the review was to (i) provide evidence of how the measures were used in practices; (ii) investigate which items of resource use were most frequently dependent on patient recall; and (iii) compare estimates if more than one measure was used for the same item of resource.

Results were presented at the MRC Hubs for Trial Methodology Research 2nd Clinical Trials Methodology Conference held in Edinburgh, and as a poster at the 2013 Dublin ISPOR conference. A second poster reported the results of a systematic review of the validity and reliability of patient-reported resource use measures. Further details can be found [here](#).

DIRUM also featured in the workshop on costing methods held at Oxford University in October.

## Taxonomy for Resource Use Measures

In a previous edition of the newsletter we reported how we had reviewed the terms used for resource use questionnaires, logs and diaries in published HTA monographs. We found considerable lack of clarity on who did what, how, and to whom and devised a taxonomy. A paper on this has been accepted for publication in Health Economics and should appear in 2014 DOI: 10.1002/hec.3029

## Breaking News

In an exciting development, the MRC Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research has agreed to fund a Health Economic Resource Use and Costs Working Group.

The Working Group will bring together health economists **within the MRC Methodology Hubs and across the UK** to improve methods for resource-use measurement, costing and analysis in randomised controlled trials through collaborative methodological research and dissemination.

The working group will not be just for health economists. One of the stated aims is to work more closely with NHS trust finance departments and government bodies to ensure that the data collected routinely for reimbursement (payment by results) can also be linked to RCT participants and used for economic analysis.

More details on how to join the group will be posted on the DIRUM website in the coming weeks.

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