Research agenda

- Effect of question sequencing
- Free-text entries: Potential benefits vs burden of data management
- Optimal recall length. Ability to recall vs accuracy of estimates
- Accuracy in recall of medical terms
- Ability of instrument (and respondents) to distinguish between resource use related / unrelated to the context of use (specificity of the instrument)
- Comprehensiveness of the items recorded by the instruments (sensitivity of the instrument)

- Length of questionnaire and potential burden on respondent
- Missing data: Assessment of the underlying causes
- Reliability testing. Applicability and appropriateness of reliability testing
- Validity testing. Applicability and appropriateness of validity testing
- Appropriateness (or otherwise) of generic resource use instruments
- Transferability for different populations, settings or context
- Cognition and readability
- Lessons from large national health surveys?
- Multinational trials

Validity – research questions

- ☐ Should we validate
  - – Questionnaires?
  - – Questions?
  - – Approaches? (e.g. Recall periods, phrasing of questions, data collection approaches)

- ☐ How generalisable will validity studies be?

- ☐ How much resource should be put into validation of RUQ?

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Validity plus?

- ☐ Is it the validity of RUQs that we are ultimately interested in?

- ☐ OR the validity of the calculated cost:
  - – Taking account of any extrapolation?
  - – Taking account of any missing items from the RUQ?
  - – Taking account of unit cost data?

- ☐ (Akin to outcomes where we apply values?)

Future Research

- Is there still a need for standardisation in patient resource instruments (is it sufficient to have broad guidelines rather than being too prescriptive)?

- Do we need a different approach to resource use collection in clinical trials?

- Productivity costs valuation is still debated, how much does this matter for measurement?

- Recall period – We used 2 weeks in PCQ, although Clarke (2008) argues there is no compelling reason why a short recall period is the default design in many studies.

- How do we actually measure how precise & accurate instruments are?

Future Research

Questionnaire Design

- Examination of the different resource use categories to identify which categories are most prone to missing data

- Placement of resource use questions within the main questionnaire.

- Placement of resource use categories within the RUQ

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Questionnaire Design cont.

- Short versus long RUQ
- Use of closed questions

Administration of Questionnaires

- Separate questionnaires versus combined trial questionnaires
- Use of electronic versus paper RUQ.

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Priorities for Future Research

- Total v condition specific resource use and for total, the minimum sample size to ensure randomisation balances unrelated resource use between arms
- In long term follow-up whether a series of accurate snapshots with gaps is better than complete data of questionable quality
- Further evidence of whether the marginal value of patient logs exceeds their marginal cost