University of BRISTOL

DIRUM workshop

Introduction & Objectives

MRC | Hubs for Trials Methodology Research

Why DIRUM?

- Patient-reported resource use measures (RUMs) are with us for the foreseeable.

- Well-respected tools available, but not suitable for every circumstance.

- A lot of modifications / reinventing of wheels going on.

- No open-access repository.

How did DIRUM happen?

http://www.dirum.org/

Why this workshop?

- RUM is the Cinderella of health economics
  - Outcomes (n=7)
  - Policy/NICE (n=4)
  - Models/Analysis (n=2)
  - RU/Costs (n=0)

- BUT, it is the most time consuming and ‘easiest to mess up’ part of EE alongside RCTs

- RUM is also a moving target

Potential topics for discussion

Strengths and weaknesses of existing resource use instruments

- What do we know about the feasibility of existing RUMs
- What do we know about the validity of existing RUMs
- Do we need 'short-form' versions of existing RUMs?
- Do we need new 'generic' RUMs? (what are the gaps with existing RUMs)?

Potential topics for discussion

Methods of validation

- Best practice to measure the validity
  - Face validity
  - Reliability
  - Convergent / Discriminant validity
  - Criterion validity?
- Is there evidence that administration mode (face to face / telephone) matters?
- Is there evidence that the type of RUM (e.g. diary / questionnaire) matters?
- Do we know what the maximum optimal recall period is?

Potential topics for discussion

Generic, modular and disease-specific resource use instruments

- Involving patients in developing new questionnaires
- When is study modification of existing RUMs to fit the disease/study OK?
- Should we be developing condition-specific RUMs or modules (as with PROMS)?
- Do we need new age-specific RUMs?
- Do we need new perspective/setting-specific RUMs?

Potential topics for discussion

Other issues

- Preventing / dealing with missing RU data
- Do we need to sample all patients at all centres at all timepoints?
- Can RUMs ever be transferrable between countries?
- Etc.

Outputs

- Chance to meet and discuss the issues
- Hear about ongoing research
- Produce a report on the workshop proceedings
- Develop a research agenda

Health Technology Assessment 1999; Vol. 3: No. 6

Review

Assessing the costs of healthcare technologies in clinical trials

K Johnston
MJ Buxton
DR Jones
R Fitzpatrick

Data collection

- determining appropriate recall periods for data collection.
- determining the validity and reliability of resource-use data collection instruments.
- development of standard questionnaires for patient costs.

Research funders

- *assist in the process by the establishment of an archive of data collection instruments and of empirical data sets.*