

Final report project R51 (DIRUM) 30th July 2014

Investigators:

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Project title:

DIRUM - Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement: Update and website expansion

Project reference number:

R51

Dates:

1st January 2014 to 31st May 2014

Summary/list of the original objectives:

1. Expand the methodological resources section of DIRUM
2. Update the look and content of the DIRUM website.
3. Generate a more extensive links page for the DIRUM website.
4. Develop a Powerpoint presentation of DIRUM.
5. Producing DIRUM newsletters, upload conference presentations and new resource use instruments as they are identified

What was actually achieved:

1. A systematic review conducted by Dr Joanna Thorn, (University of Bristol / ConDuCT) identified 71 articles that assessed the validity and reliability of resource use measures based on patient recall. We have adapted the DIRUM database to provide users a search facility of these (and other related – 94 in total) methodological articles. Users may search by free text terms, and order according to publication year, author name and title. This improves the methodological content of DIRUM, and serves as a useful resource for health economists to identify (for example) the evidence on the optimal recall period for assessing use of primary care services and thereby aid trial design.
2. The DIRUM homepage has been enhanced by improve its visual impact and attract more site visits. A link to methodological papers has been incorporated as a tab in the top-level menu.
3. We have updated and extended the list of external links from the DIRUM website. Links to DIRUM have been established from Research Design Service websites. Since going live in June 2011, the website has had 8662 visits and 2314 resource use questionnaires downloaded.
4. The DIRUM website now contains a Powerpoint presentation which provides an overview of DIRUM.
5. Biannual newsletters are sent to all health economists around the UK (and many further afield) via the mailing list, HEALTHECON-ALL@jiscmail.ac.uk

Next steps for the project:

1. Continue uploading new resource use measures as and when they are submitted / identified
2. Develop DIRUM further in line with the priorities of the Health Economic Resource Use and Costs Working Group
3. The marginal cost of maintaining DIRUM is low. Future funding will be come from projects in which DIRUM is included as a research platform for resource use or cost methodology. These will be developed as part of the functions of the Health Economic Resource Use and Costs Working Group