Using experiments to improve the design of surveys eliciting past health care usage

Professor Philip Clarke and Dr Kim Dalziel
Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Self-reported information on past utilization of health care is routinely used by many health researchers. However, the recall period of questions varies widely between surveys and this variation may impact on the results of analyses. This seminar examines the role of length of recall period, mainly using a large experiment conducted in Sweden of self-reported hospitalizations of respondents. Respondents were asked a question on the number of nights they spent in hospital in which the recall period varied between one and twelve months. Our findings have conflicting implications for survey design as the preferred recall length depends on the objectives of the analysis. We will conclude by outlining planned experiments to build a better evidence base for designing surveys.

Philip Clarke holds the Chair in Health Economics at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. He has had previous appointments at Oxford University and the University of Sydney. He was involved in developing the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) Outcomes Model, a computer simulation model for predicting outcomes for patients with Type 2 diabetes. He has expertise in economic evaluation alongside clinical trials, simulation modeling, measurement of health inequalities and international comparisons of drug prices. He has recently contributed to books on cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit analysis published by Oxford University Press.

Kim Dalziel is a Senior Research Fellow and McKenzie Fellow in the Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics (CHPPE). She has considerable expertise in modelling health interventions including for regulatory authorities such as the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in Australia and for the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK. Her work has included economic evaluation of complex interventions in areas such as child protection.

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ALL WELCOME