Working with PBS Data

Medicine and Device Surveillance CRE, University of South Australia

Are you working with linked health claims data that includes pharmaceuticals? The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data set is a valuable resource for the evaluation of medicines use in Australia. Like all data sets it has some unique characteristics. This training program will enable you to understand the peculiarities of the PBS data and give hands on experience to successfully work with it.

Beginners workshop                Monday 9 Feb 2015
Intermediate workshop    Tuesday 10 – Wednesday 11 Feb 2015

Presenters

Dr Libby Roughead is a Research Professor at the University of South Australia and Chief Investigator with the Medicine and Device Surveillance CRE. Her research interests include public policy concerning medicines, quality use of medicines, health program planning, implementation and evaluation, and medicines safety. Libby has been working with Australian Pharmaceutical Data since 1995 and using linked pharmaceutical data since 2004. She is a member of the Drug Utilisation Subcommittee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the Medication Safety Reference Group of Australian Commission on Safety and Quality.

Dr Nicole Pratt is an NHMRC Early Career Fellow at the University of South Australia and has worked previously as a statistician with the Data Management and Analysis Centre, University of Adelaide and the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Nicole has significant experience in using large health care datasets and her expertise in the evaluation of health data sources is recognised nationally and internationally.

Emmame Ramsay is a statistician at the University of South Australia with over 10 years’ experience. She is a key researcher with the Medicine and Device Surveillance CRE and has worked previously with the Data Management and Analysis Centre. She has developed expertise in the use of large health care datasets through her work with the Veterans’ MATES project.

Dr Anna Kemp is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Health Services Research, University of Western Australia. Anna has more than seven years’ experience working with Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme data and health datasets from multiple jurisdictions. Her primary research interest is the utilisation of publically subsidised prescription medicines in Australia and the impact of national health policy on their use, particularly among vulnerable population groups. Anna is a member of the Drug Utilisation Subcommittee of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and an Investigator with the Medicine and Device Surveillance CRE.
Program

- **Beginners Workshop - Introduction to PBS data**

  **Monday 9 February 2015**

  This day long course is designed for people with limited or no experience in using the PBS data. It will cover the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits, the sections and types of listings, the pharmaceutical coding systems, including the World Health Organization Anatomical Chemical and Therapeutic classification, and defined daily doses. Participants will gain knowledge of issues that affect data analysis, including historical changes, fixed dose combination products, regulations 24 and 25, concessional status, the safety net, under-copayment and section 100. Using Australian examples, participants will be able to practice interpretation data and trends. The workshop will include a hands-on session, where participants are able to use a simulated dataset to enable calculation of trends in utilisation, defined daily doses and rolling annual averages. Some knowledge of statistical software is desirable – SAS software will be used during the workshop.

- **Intermediate Workshop - Working with PBS Data**

  **Tuesday 10 - Wednesday 11 February 2015**

  This two day course is designed for people with some prior knowledge in using the PBS data, and some knowledge of statistical software is desirable – SAS software will be used during the workshop.

  Day one will cover segmented regression analysis for time series data, ascertaining prescription duration, creating episodes of prescription durations and creating episodes of co-administration. Limitations in co-administration analyses will be explored. The workshop will include a hands-on session where participants are able to manipulate the data to enable prescription medicine duration episodes and co-administration episodes to be developed.

  Day two will cover compliance and persistence studies. Methods for compliance assessment including medication possession ratio, proportion of days covered, continuous measure without gaps will be examined, as will Kaplan Meier survival analysis for persistence studies. The workshop will include a hands-on session where participants are able to manipulate the data to undertake both compliance and persistence assessment.