

Research Updates

INCLLEN undertakes resource utilization study under WHO-CHOICE Project

The INCLLEN Trust, in collaboration with the World Health Organization launched the project, *“Rapidassessment of resource utilization and effectiveness of selected health interventions”* in April 2002. This is a multi-country study of resource utilization for various health interventions, using a combination of the Delphi technique and clinical records review. The study covers five WHO regions represented by the following countries: China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Africa.

INCLLEN will estimate the extent of resource utilization and effectiveness of selected health interventions, and compare the resource utilization with expected patterns, as estimated by clinicians interpreting clinical practice guidelines. Findings will provide the database for the WHO-CHOICE (Choosing Interventions that are Cost Effective) project, which seeks to provide evidence on the costs and effectiveness of health interventions that can be used by decision-makers for priority setting, resource allocation, and improvement of the performance of their health systems. As part of its objectives, CHOICE has been developing standard tools and methods for cost-effectiveness analysis. It is currently in the process of producing regional databases on costs and population effectiveness of key health interventions. These databases will include raw data on costs and effects of the interventions, together with the methods and calculations used to obtain summary cost-effectiveness ratios. The information will be available on the Internet for public consumption.

The INCLLEN study uses the Delphi technique as the primary method for collecting data and providing information on expected or actual resource use for all selected healthcare interventions. The results of the Delphi process will then be compared against reviews of clinical records of patients who have received the selected healthcare interventions. Each country has been allocated 6-7 health interventions for the clinical records review. All 45 interventions divided into eleven clusters (pediatrics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, psychiatry, internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, oncology, infectious disease, neurology, and trauma) will be covered by the 7 participating countries, all of which will review clinical records for hospital management of severe pneumonia in children.

The Central Coordinating Team, which is based in Bogotá, Colombia, is headed by Dr. Diana Pinto. The co-investigators are: Drs. Liang Xu for China, Amr Hassan for Egypt, Shally Awasthi for India, Iwan Dwiprahasto for Indonesia, Marissa Alejandria for the Philippines, and Paul Rheeder for South Africa.