

Foreword

This is the fourteenth volume in a series of reports from a Department of Health-funded programme of work based at the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent. The costs reported always reflect, to a greater or lesser degree, work in progress, as the intention is to refine and improve estimates wherever possible, drawing on a wide variety of sources. The aim is to provide as detailed and comprehensive information as possible and to improve unit cost estimates over time, drawing on material as it becomes available, including ongoing and specially commissioned research and quoting sources and assumptions so users can adapt the information for their own purposes.

The Unit Costs report starts this year with a preface in which new developments and new services are discussed. This is followed, for the first time this year, by a guest editorial by Anita Patel on conducting and interpreting multi-national economic evaluations (Patel, 2006). Then, as in previous years, we have included four short articles which provide background to user services, descriptions of cost methodology or use of cost estimates.

In putting the report together, we rely on a large number of individuals who have provided direct input in the form of data, permission to use material and background information and advice.

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If you are aware of other sources of information which can be used to improve our estimates, notice errors or have any other comments, please contact Lesley Curtis, telephone 01227 827193.

Many figures in this report have been rounded and therefore occasionally it may appear that the totals do not add up.

This report may be downloaded from our website: <http://www.pssru.ac.uk>