

Canterbury District Health Board Masters Project Description

The Project

Project Title:

InterRAI – Predicting significant time-to-event endpoints using the InterRAI tool

University Project Leaders/Supervisors & Department / School / Research Centre:

Associate Professor Ray Kirk, Director, Health Sciences Centre

Canterbury DHB Project Co -Leaders / Co-Supervisors:

Kaye Gilhooley, Canterbury DHB

Degree level:

Masters

Timeframe:

1 year. Expected to be February 2009 – February 2010

Scholarship Funding:

The scholarship is funded by the Canterbury DHB. The successful student will receive NZ\$15,000 for living and research-related costs and a \$5,000 grant for tuition fees.

Project Description: Brief outline of project (up to 400 words):

(Describe the proposed research project)

This project will take a sample of people who have been assessed using the InterRAI assessment tool MDS-HC 2.0 (www.interrai.org) and investigate the tool's predictive ability to assess significant time-to-event primary endpoints - emergency department attendance, hospitalization and residential home admission. The project will focus on

1. Describing the relationship studied for the events of interest (InterRAI variables and time-to-event primary endpoints) and the reasons for studying it – for example, to answer the question, can the results of the InterRAI assessment be reliably used to predict emergency department attendance, hospitalization and residential home admission? This involves predictive modeling approach and data matching across data sets and/or extracting data across data sets and merging data.
2. Describing the clinical, demographic and social characteristics of the population selected for study.
3. Undertaking and reporting the regression model used to assess the associations between the explanatory InterRAI variables and the time-to-event outcomes. For example, a common technique used here is Cox proportional hazards regression analysis.

4. Undertaking and reporting on a measure of risk for each InterRAI explanatory variable on the time-to-event outcomes, for example a hazard ratio analysis.

The Student

Student Academic background / specific skills sought:

Ideally the student should have experience with statistical software packages such as SPSS or SAS and familiarity with health data sets. A health background is desirable but not essential. Good oral and written communication skills and a relevant undergraduate degree are essential.