

Proposal for relative units of value (RUV) for use in allergy examinations

J.M. Negro Álvarez^{a,h}, A. Pascual Camus^a, T. Murcia Alemán^b, C. Aparicio García^c, J.L. Jiménez Molina^d, J. Hernández García^a, J.A. Pagán Alemán^a, J. Puerta Jiménez^c, E. Serrano^e, R. Ferrandiz Gomis^f and M. Alcaraz Quiñonero^g

^aDept. of Allergology. ^bDeputy Director. Information and Evaluation Systems. ^cEvaluations Unit. ^dDept. of Admissions. Documentation and Archiving. ^eDeputy Director. Medical Services. ^fManaging Director. University Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca. Murcia. Spain. ^gManaging Director. Hospital San Jaime. Torrevieja. Alicante. Spain. ^hAssociate Lecturer in Allergology. Faculty of Medicine. Murcia. Spain.

ABSTRACT

Health resources are limited and consequently real cost generators must be identified to optimize resources.

In the present article, we describe the structure of the Homogeneous Functional Groups (HFG) for Diagnostic Techniques in the Allergy Department of the Virgen de la Arrixaca University Hospital in Murcia (Spain) and the healthcare products generated.

Based on the 2005 budget, variable costing was used to calculate the costs of the healthcare products generated (skin tests, investigation of drug allergies, etc.) by one of the three HFG (the HFG for complementary investigations).

On the basis of these costs, and taking as the unit the cost of one skin prick test, we assigned relative units of value (RUV) to each of the products in our services portfolio.

The following conclusions can be drawn: 1) the current system of variable costing provides information, which should be useful to health professionals; 2) the real cost generators in the microcosm of daily clinical practice should be identified to allow resource reallocation; 3) the costing system used enables modifications to be made that allow decision making on optimal use of the budget; 4) to take the decisions required to optimize resources, clinical management and complementary tests should go hand-in-hand.

Key words: Allergology. RUV. Relative units of value. Analytical accounting. Homogeneous Functional Group (HFG). Costs.

INTRODUCTION

For some years now our group has been estimating costs in Allergology, as we consider that this task gives added value to our other activities.

The assignation of weighted values to the diagnostic techniques used in Allergology is seen as a necessity by numerous professionals, specialists and Allergology centres to facilitate analytical accountancy and the charging of costs to their departments.

We had twin objectives in mind: the updating of the Services Portfolio or catalogue of diagnostic therapeutic examinations used in Allergology, and the establishment of relative units of value (RUV) for those procedures in our Department. We hope that once

Correspondence:

J.M. Negro Álvarez
Valle, n.º 7
30120 El Palmar. Murcia.
Tel.: 968-369615
Fax: 968-369791
E-mail: jnegroa@meditex.es

the proposal has been discussed in the forums of the speciality and accepted by the members of the Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, it will provide an agreed, standardised and ordered list of the procedures carried out in an Allergology Department and could be used as standard terminology.

The availability of RUV for all examinations will permit each Allergology Department to calculate its parameters of activity and performance.

STUDY OBJETIVES

The objective was to assign weighted values to each diagnostic technique used in the speciality of Allergology, taking the costs for personnel and the costs of materials per examination. The calculation will use as reference the prick-test, which is considered as one unit.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The examinations have been put in consecutive order following our Department's Portfolio of Diagnostic Technical Services (table I), and are classified according to diagnostic groups. A six figure Code is assigned to each examination, for introduction after the definitive approval of the document.

Information sources

The administrative management of patients in the Outpatients Consultations Department, as well as that of tasks relating to the appointments process and the recording of the actions taken with patients in this Hospital Department, is performed on HP-HIS1® by the Outpatient Consultations module, which provides a flexible system for designing appointment books. This module is designed so that the administrative staff in the Appointments Centre of the Admissions Department for Outpatient Consultations makes the appointments for first time patients, and the staff in the Allergology Unit makes further appointments and any patient requested appointment. The appointments section is an interface presenting the user with all the information required to perform the tasks, such as the scheduling of appointments, registration of new patients, changes in scheduling (cancellations, re-scheduling) or recording of the action performed, in accord with the Unit's profile.

The frequency of controls and the health professional present at each particular visit were defined by the current Allergology Unit schedule.

Table I
Services Portfolio of Diagnostic Techniques of the Allergology Dept.

Name	No. of determinations
Skin tests	110,422
Foods	
Anisakis	
Hymenopters	
Latex	
Pneumoallergens	
Patches and Photopatches	
Tests for medications	1,790
Metacolines	854
Spirometries	3,097
Ophthlmo/nasal reactions	2,232
CAP (IgE and ECP)	5,524
Occupational allergens	
Foods	
Hymenopters	
Medications	
Pneumoallergens	
Parasites	
ECP	
Total IgE	

The data was completed with the costs structure provided by the Evaluations Unit at the hospital.

Procedure for electronic creation of the results sheet

The structure chosen for the introduction and presentation of data was a spreadsheet from Microsoft Excel (Office Professional for XP)¹, configured as a series of pages describing each activity for the departmental evaluations.

Definitions

Physician time

The time used by the allergologist in preparing the report, plus supervision or the examination itself, in the cases where this is applicable.

Nursing staff time

This measures the time taken by the Registered Nurse or Nursing Auxiliary and used in performing the technique.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3340361>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3340361>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)