

Converting the administration of health measures and bio specimen collection from paper to CAI

Authors: Karl Dinkelmann and Rebecca Gatward UMI SRC

The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a longitudinal panel study that surveys a representative sample of more than 26,000 Americans over the age of 50 every two years. Supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Social Security Administration, the HRS explores the changes in labor force participation and the health transitions that individuals undergo toward the end of their work lives and in the years that follow. The HRS interview is comprised of an in-depth CAI interview (face to face or telephone), a series of physical measurements, collection of biomarker samples and at the end of the interview, a self-administered paper questionnaire is left with the respondent which they are asked to complete and return by mail. In preparation for the 2014 wave of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) we successfully converted administration of the series of physical measures and biomarkers and consent forms from paper to computer assisted (using Blaise). This paper will focus on the conversion process, focusing specifically on the following; usability issues, testing, maintaining continuity of data, acceptance by interviewers and respondents, outcomes and future development.