

Review article

Quick Reference Guide for Critical Appraisal of Economics Evaluations for Busy Decision Makers

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SUMMARY

Economic evaluations in health economics are analytical methods used for the analysis of costs and consequences of two or more alternative health programs or interventions. These analyses involve identification, measurement, evaluation and comparison of costs and consequences. Whenever there are two alternative health programs or treatments that lead to different consequences and have different cost, it is recommended to use adequate and proven analytical techniques in the process of making a decision on which intervention to choose. Health economics evaluation techniques can be of great benefit as they stand for proven and highly advanced methods that exhibit high degree of usefulness in practice. Validity of results of health economic evaluation and adequacy of their use in practice is doubtless. Nevertheless, it is evident that these results are insufficiently used in everyday decision making practice, even in countries with a very long tradition and developed health economics. This phenomenon is characterized by multifactorial genesis, but its two main causes are reflected in: insufficient training of decision makers in the field of health economics and lack of credibility of studies. With respect to the aforementioned facts, the aim of our paper was to create a tool for decision makers which will enable relatively simple and rapid assessment of relevance and suitability of economics evaluations to their needs.

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