



Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes (Oxford Medical Publications)

By Michael F. Drummond, Mark J. Sculpher, Karl Claxton, Greg L. Stoddart, George W. Torrance

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The purpose of economic evaluation is to inform decisions intended to improve healthcare. The new edition of *Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes* equips the reader with the essential hands-on experience required to undertake evaluations by providing a 'tool kit' based on the authors' own experiences of undertaking economic evaluations.

Building on the strength of the previous edition, the accessible writing style ensures the text is key reading for the non-expert reader, as no prior knowledge of economics is required. The book employs a critical appraisal framework, which is useful both to researchers conducting studies and to decision-makers assessing them. Practical examples are provided throughout to aid learning and understanding.

The book analyses the methodological and policy challenges that face health systems in seeking to allocate resources efficiently and fairly. New chapters include 'Principles of economic evaluation' and 'Making decisions in healthcare' which introduces the reader to core issues and questions about allocation, and provides an understanding of the fundamental principles which guide decision making.

A key part of evidence-based decision making is the analysis of all the relevant evidence to make informed decisions and policy. The new chapter 'Identifying, synthesising and analysing evidence' highlights the importance of systematic review, and how and why these methods are used. As methods of analysis continue to change the chapter on 'Characterising, reporting and interpreting uncertainty' introduces the reader to recent methods of analysis and why uncertainty matters for health care decision.

The fourth edition of *Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes* has been thoroughly revised and updated, making it essential

reading for anyone commissioning, undertaking, or using economic evaluations in health care, including health service professionals, health economists, and health care decision makers.

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Editorial Review

Review

Review from previous edition: "The book has some important characteristics that differentiate it from others in the field. Another unique feature is the presentation of tutorials that are highlighted in boxes." --Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics

"This book is a new second edition of what became the standard text for Health Economists and can be heartily recommended to anyone who is interested in this vitally important area of research." --Amazon.com

"An important contribution to studies on the economic evaluation of medical care." --British Medical Journal

"This is essential reading. Only if all managers are aware of the powers of economic techniques will they be used sensibly." --Health Service Journal

"This book suited my needs to perfection and is an ideal accompaniment to a course that combines methodology with critical appraisal and hands-on practical training in using these techniques. The methodological chapters on cost analysis and cost utility are gems... should become the standard text on the subject at the intermediate level at which it is aimed." --Medical Decision Making

"This book is a must for every student in health services sciences." --Acta Hospitalia

"The book is well designed and clearly written." --Canadian Public Policy

"It leaves nothing important in economic evaluation analysis untouched." --Health Policy and Planning

About the Author

Michael F. Drummond, *Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK*, Mark J. Sculpher, *Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK*, Karl Claxton, *Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK*, Greg L. Stoddart, *Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada*, George W. Torrance, *Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada*

Michael Drummond, BSc, MCom, DPhil is Professor of Health Economics and former Director of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York. His particular field of interest is in the economic evaluation of health care treatments and programmes. He has undertaken evaluations in a wide range of medical fields including care of the elderly, neonatal intensive care, immunization programmes, services for people with AIDS, eye health care and pharmaceuticals. He is the author of two major textbooks and more than 650 scientific papers, and has acted as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the European Union. He has been President of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care, and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. In October 2010 he was made a member of the Institute of Medicine in the USA. He is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Value in Health*.

Mark Sculpher is Professor of Health Economics at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York,

UK where he is Director of the Programme on Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment. Mark has worked in the field of economic evaluation and health technology assessment since 1987. He has researched in a range of clinical areas including heart disease, cancer, diagnostics and public health. He has also contributed to methods in the field, in particular relating to decision analytic modelling and techniques to handle uncertainty, heterogeneity and generalisability. He has also been a member of various decision-making bodies within the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and is a former president of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR).

Karl Claxton is a Professor in the Department of Economics and the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, where he leads the economic evaluation component of the Health Economics MSc. He is a past co-editor of the Journal of Health Economics and for many years held an adjunct appointment at the Harvard School of Public Health. He was a founding member of the NICE Technology Appraisal Committee and continues to contribute to the development of the NICE Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal. He has contributed in a number of ways to recent policy debates such as pharmaceutical pricing and innovation. His research interests span the methods of economic evaluation, particularly decision analytic modelling, characterising uncertainty and value of information analysis.

Greg Stoddart, PhD is Professor Emeritus at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, where he has been a member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, the Program in Policy Decision-Making, and the Department of Economics. In addition to his work on economic evaluation methods, he has authored or edited numerous books, monographs and articles on health care financing, utilization analysis, health human resources, and population health. He was the Founding Coordinator of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, and one of the founders of the Population Health Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. He has consulted widely for Canadian provincial and federal governments and the World Health Organization.

George W Torrance, PhD, Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, is one of the founding fathers of the field of economic evaluation in health care. His numerous publications include both contributions to theory and methods, some of which he has pioneered, and applications in many different clinical areas. He co-authored the original guidelines for the economic evaluation of health care treatments and programmes for Canada (1994) and for the U.S. Public Health Service (1996). For his pioneering work in the field, Dr. Torrance has received lifetime achievement awards from three international scientific societies: the Society for Medical Decision Making, the International Society of Quality of Life Research, and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. He has been inducted into the McMaster University Health Science's Community of Distinction.

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