

Overview of the Methodology Forum

Prioritizing Methodological Research in the
Evaluation of Health Technologies

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Background and Objectives

- Advancements in methodological approaches are important for ensuring ongoing improvement in the comprehensiveness and quality of assessments of health technologies
- The ***objective*** of the forum series is *to identify and address major methodological challenges in informing policies around the funding of health technologies in partnership with the stakeholders that are involved in the production and use of evidence*

Current Methodological Debates

- Choice of viewpoint for economic evaluation
- Problems with QALYs and the alternatives
- Methods for making indirect and mixed treatment comparisons
- Use of surrogates and intermediate outcomes
- Incorporating equity and other social considerations

The Story So Far

- Commitment from IHE, in association with key partners (academia, industry, government agencies in Canada and elsewhere)
- Initial consultation with Canadian methodologists to scope out potential methodological issues relevant to the Canadian health care system
- Development of the programme for the first forum (by Deborah Marshall, in collaboration with IHE and the moderator)

Some Guiding Principles

- Not a 'one-shot' effort: methodologies are continually developing
- Can learn from others: but only up to a point
- Methodology is not just for the methodologists
- Stakeholder involvement is key to the development and use of new methods

Importance of the Decision-Making Context

- *United Kingdom*
 - remit for NICE to maximise the benefits from the use of the health budget
- *Canada*
 - different decision makers at Federal and Provincial levels with different remits
- *United States*
 - substantial private sector with patient copayments

Structure of This Initial Forum

- *Day One*
 - international experience
 - exploration of different policy perspectives
- *Day Two*
 - detailed discussion of 5 methodological challenges
 - prioritization discussion
 - report and follow-up

What next?

- Sharing of summary report with participants.
- IHE desire to have this be the “start of an ongoing conversation”.
- Targeted work on some specific priorities?
- Regular gatherings to support ongoing prioritization and action?
- Lets begin the conversation.