

Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

Decision rules and uncertainty in the economic evaluation of health care technologies

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The decision making plane has the advantage of making the benefits forgone of not implementing a new program by cancelling an existing program explicit (this thesis)

An advantage of using the cumulative distribution of total costs and effects for decision making when applying the alternative decision rule is that the uncertainty associated with all programs in the current portfolio can be included in the analysis (this thesis)

The cost-effectiveness affordability curve unambiguously locates the joint distribution of incremental costs and effects on the cost-effectiveness plane (this thesis)

The applicability of portfolio methods to improve the risk-return characteristics of investments in health care is limited to situations where the available budget is much smaller than the expected costs of the programs to be funded (this thesis)

The principle of capital allocation between a risky and risk-free asset can be used to construct a risk-adjusted league table of expected returns (this thesis)

There is no single cost-effectiveness benchmark above which health care technologies are automatically rejected and below which technologies are accepted (*Towse et al. Cost-Effectiveness Thresholds: Economic and Ethical Issues, p.7, King's Fund, London, UK*)

Information on the relative cost-effectiveness of new technologies is a public good that requires government intervention as other actors in the health care market are not expected to generate such information

Parachutes reduce the risk of injury after gravitational challenge, but their effectiveness has not been proved with randomised controlled trials. Individuals who insist that the cost-effectiveness of all interventions need to be evaluated alongside randomised controlled trials need to come down to earth. (*adapted from Smith and Pell. Parachute use to prevent death and major trauma related to gravitational challenge: systematic review of randomised controlled trials. BMJ 2003 Dec 20;327:1459-61*)

The money spent on gifts and wrapping paper, tinsel and turkey is a significant opportunity cost, which might be better spent on improving the health care of the nation (*Isaacs and Fitzgerald. A seasonal cost effectiveness analysis: the last Noel? BMJ 2002;325:1456*)

Everything is vague to a degree you do not realise till you have tried to make it precise (Bertrand Russell)

Dancing Salsa and working in science have one important thing in common: you are never sure about the outcome but it's fun doing it