

Course Syllabus

Adjunct Professor: Alastair Gray

Course	Health Economics		
Credit	1	Method of Teaching	Lecture
<p>Objective</p> <p>At the end of the course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe the .economics and economic tools applied to health and health care. - describe the concept of costs - describe techniques for measuring and valuing quality of life - become familiar with cost-effectiveness analysis. 			
<p>Outline</p> <p>Discussion in the classroom is highly encouraged.</p>			
<p>Class Schedule (90 minutes each)</p> <p><u>Day 1 (Saturday, January 23, 2016)</u></p> <p>1) Economics, health and health economics (9:00-10:30)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What is economics; what is health economics; health care spending: international trends; health care spending: composition and explanations. Health and wealth.</p> <p>2) Applying economic tools to health and health care (10:45-12:15)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Supply and demand; the market for health and health care; market failure and its consequences</p> <p><u>Day 2 (Sunday, January 24, 2016)</u></p> <p>1) Costs (9:00-10:30)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Costs, prices and opportunity costs. Which perspective: the patient, the health system, the employer, society. How to collect cost information. Hospital costs and DRGs; the cost of events. International comparisons of costs.</p> <p>2) Cost of illness and burden of disease (10:45-12:15)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What are cost of illness studies; what do they tell us; the Global Burden of Disease study; some</p>			

national examples and their uses; using cost of illness data to inform research spending priorities.

Day 3 (Monday, January 25, 2016)

1) Measuring and valuing quality of life (9:00-10:30)

Why measure quality of life? Some common instruments and questionnaires; valuing health states: the time trade-off and standard gamble

2) Disease modelling and decision models (10:45-12:15)

Why disease models are useful: for prognosis, for prediction, for extrapolation. How they are built and validated. Some common examples in heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Day 4 (Tuesday, January 26, 2016)

1) Using cost-effectiveness analysis to set priorities (9:00-10:30)

What is a cost-effectiveness analysis. What is a cost-benefit analysis? Taking account of costs and effects. Interpreting cost-effectiveness studies. Examples of cost-effectiveness analyses in diabetes and cancer. Cost-effectiveness databases.

2) Using cost-effectiveness to make reimbursement decisions ; the example of NICE in the UK (10:45-12:15)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; why it was set up; how it works; some controversies in the way it works and its decisions; other international reimbursement bodies.

Text

I do not propose to have set readings for each lecture.

Related readings

At the end of each lecture I will provide some further reading and references.

Achievement evaluation

There will be an oral final exam upon completion of the course.