

# Health Economics News

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## Welcome to the CHE Newsletter

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### Courses and Workshops

#### York Summer Workshops in Health Economic Evaluation

*Foundations of Economic Evaluation in Health Care*  
17 - 21 June 2019

*Advanced Methods for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis: Meeting Decision-Makers' Requirements*  
24 - 28 June 2019

*Outcomes Measurement and Valuation for Health Technology Assessment*  
1 - 3 July 2019

*Analysing Patient-Level Data using Hospital Episode Statistics*  
8 - 10 July 2019

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## York HESG Winter Meeting

Written by Nils Gutacker, Noemi Kreif and Helen Weatherly

CHE hosted the 2019 Health Economists' Study Group (HESG) winter meeting, which was attended by 193 participants from the UK and as far afield as the United States and New Zealand. The conference provided a great opportunity to discuss the current state of health economics research and to network with participants from academic institutions, consulting companies, ministries of health and other governmental bodies. Forty seven papers and twelve posters were presented.

Prior to the conference, Professor Andrew Jones ran a free pre-conference short course on 'Data visualisation and econometrics' which was very well attended and received. The plenary discussion on 'How can health economics better inform policy?' was chaired by Professor Karen Bloor, with discussants Becky Henderson, Professor Brian Ferguson, Danny Palnoch and Professor Kalipso Chalkidou. This session was dedicated to the late Professor Alan Maynard, who passed away in early 2018. He was remembered by his many friends, colleagues and students for the substantial contributions he has made to the field of health economics. Tributes from friends followed, including from Professors Jane Hall, Stephen Birch and Maria Goddard.



Rose Atkins (University of Manchester) won the PhD Poster Prize sponsored by Health Economics (Wiley). Congratulations also to Ashleigh Kernohan (Newcastle University), whose poster was highly commended.

## CHE Research Fellowships - Call for applications

Applications are invited from researchers wishing to visit CHE in order to produce a collaborative piece of research, led by the applicant.

Closing date 3rd May 2019. Read more here [www.york.ac.uk/che/publications](http://www.york.ac.uk/che/publications)

## Accounting for the quality of healthcare outputs

Project team: Adriana Castelli, Katja Grašič, Anne Mason (CHE), Chris Bojke (University of Leeds), Andrew Street (LSE)

Measuring the output of a health system is challenging because people usually do not demand healthcare for its own sake, but because of its contribution towards improving their health. Capturing the value of healthcare therefore requires some means of measuring both the outcome and process of healthcare delivery.



Current practice in accounting for the quality of healthcare services makes use of routinely available information in order to capture

the Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) associated with treating patients, by combining information on survival rates, life expectancy and a measure of change in health status before and after treatment. The process of care delivery is captured by measures of treatment waiting times. This approach may overlook other important characteristics of the quality of healthcare.

Our review provides the conceptual framework needed to select potentially appropriate characteristics of healthcare goods/services to be included in a measure of NHS output. To this end three published sets of criteria developed by national bodies responsible for assessing healthcare system performance were evaluated, before seeking the opinions of UK experts on quality. Using this information, a recommended list of criteria was established. This was subsequently used to assess whether two separate set of quality indicators currently collected and reported for the English NHS meet the identified criteria. Depending on the level of consensus among reviewers, a maximum of 17 indicators were short-listed for potential use as quality adjusters for NHS output.

Link to CHE Research paper 153 here [www.cher.ac.uk](http://www.cher.ac.uk)

## Health for Wealth: it's grim up North!

CHE Researcher: Nigel Rice

There has been a long recognised productivity gap between the Northern Powerhouse region (North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, Northern Midlands) and the rest of England equating approximately to £4 per person per hour. There is also a well-documented health disparity with average life expectancy 2 years lower in the north. In response to these observed differences, the Northern Health Science Alliance commissioned a report from six of its eight university members, including participation from CHE, to investigate the association between health and productivity. Findings demonstrate a strong link between poor health and poor productivity and argues that focused and sustained investment in health in the north will contribute to reducing the productivity gap with the rest of England, delivering long-term economic gains to the UK economy.



For the Northern Powerhouse to reach its potential the report calls for central government to recognise the benefits

of increasing investments in health in developing its post-Brexit industrial strategy. This may include greater consideration of place-based public health and health prevention policies in local authorities to improving job market participation and retention amongst people with a health condition.

The full report can be found here [www.cher.ac.uk](http://www.cher.ac.uk)

### New funding

Strategies for reducing sitting time in office workers: A three arm cluster randomised controlled trial

**Gerry Richardson**

Funder: NIHR HTA  
Mar 2018 - Feb 2021

The causal impact of health on labour market outcomes: Consequences for individuals and households

**Nigel Rice**

Funder: The Health Foundation  
Apr 2018 - Sep 2020

BREEZE- A feasibility, randomised controlled trial of a complex breathlessness intervention in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

**Gerry Richardson**

Funder: NIHR RfPB  
Jun 2018 - May 2020

Evaluation of Coenzyme Q10 in Chronic Heart Failure: An international collaborative systematic review and Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis (IPD-MA) with linked economic evaluation and Value of Information (VOI) analysis

**Claire Rothery**

Funder: NIHR HTA  
Sep 2018 - Aug 2020

Comparing smoking cessation to screening and brief intervention for alcohol in distributional cost effectiveness analysis to explore the sensitivity of results to socioeconomic inequalities characterised in model outputs

**Susan Griffin, Mark Sculpher, Ana Duarte, Simon Walker**

Funder: DOH PRP PHRC  
Sep 2018 - Mar 2019

Tracing causes of inequalities in health and well-being: Analysis of rich longitudinal data

**Nils Gutacker**

Funder: Research Council of Norway via University of Tromsø  
Oct 2018 - Sep 2021

HTx: Next Generation HTA

**Andrea Manca, Claire Rothery, Noemi Kreif**

Funder: European Commission  
Jan 2019 - Dec 2023

The role of different diets in children who are gastrostomy fed

**Gerry Richardson**

NIHR HTA  
Feb 2019 - Jul 2022

## UK's Best Breakthroughs list

CHE was named as one of the UK's 100 best breakthroughs for its significant impact on people's everyday lives by making healthcare systems fairer and more effective.

The list was compiled by Universities UK, the umbrella group for UK universities, as part of the MadeAtUni campaign to change public perceptions of universities and bring to life the difference they make to people and communities across the UK.

Read more... [www.universitiesuk.ac.uk](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk)



# Policy Research Units: January 2019-December 2023

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) announced a set of 13 new NIHR Policy Research Units. These will provide both a long-term resource for policy research and a rapid-response service to provide evidence for emerging policy needs. The units, which are considered to be an exemplar of good practice in government, will also offer advice to policy makers and analysts on the evidence base and options for policy development.

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) is leading two of these units:

1. Economic Methods of Evaluation in Health and Social Care Interventions ([EEPRU](#)), in collaboration with the University of Sheffield.
2. Economics of Health Systems and Interface with Social Care ([ESHCRU](#)), along with partners at the LSE.



University of York colleagues in the Department of Economics and Related Studies and the Social Policy Research Unit are also involved. CHE, and two other York departments (the Department of Health Sciences, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination) are also partners in the Public Health Research Unit, led by the LSHTM.

“The unique focus of our Unit – ESHCRU II – is on the interactions between the health and care systems, the cross-cutting issues facing both sectors, and their interdependencies. By applying state-of-the-art tools of economic and statistical analysis, our research will help ensure that policies are designed to take full account of the impact on patients and citizens across the entire health and care landscape, rather than focusing on the effect in one sector in isolation.”

Anne Mason, Director

NIHR Policy Research Unit in Economics of Health Systems and Interface with Social Care.

“EEPRU works in the field of economic evaluation of interventions, programmes and policies right across the DHSC’s remit, including medical care, social care and public health. It has a role in developing new and refining existing methods of economic evaluation, as well as supporting other PRUs in terms of research methods, but also undertakes applied research in the field. The early programme of research includes work to estimate the marginal productivity of the NHS, and the social care and public health sectors; validation of the ‘extended QALY’; and the cost-effectiveness of stratified breast cancer screening.”

Mark Sculpher, Co-Director

NIHR Policy Research Unit in Economic Methods of Evaluation in Health and Social Care Interventions

## Presentations and staff news



Congratulations to **Vanessa King** on obtaining a BA (Hons) degree in Leadership and Management from the Open University.

In November **Adriana Castelli** took part as an expert in health

system efficiency and productivity in the workshop 'Health Labour Market Analysis (HLMA)' organised by WHO and hosted in Turin by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization. The workshop was part of the HLMA toolkit which will be launched by WHO in 2019.

Also in November, **Paul Revill** visited Malawi to meet with Thanzi la Onse programme partners at the College of Medicine. He attended the 67th Health Ministers Conference of the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) Health Community in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. During the meeting CHE signed an MOU (Memorandum of

Understanding) with ECSA to support the field of health economics within the region.



CHE staff attended the Thanzi la Onse (TLO) International Conference in Malawi from 29 -31 January. The three-day event reunited key TLO collaborators across the UK and East Africa, as well as policy-makers and other researchers. [Read more...](#)

**Richard Cookson** and **Nils Gutacker** went to Tromsø, Norway in January, to take part in the inaugural meeting of the 'Tracing causes of inequalities in health and well-being' project, which is led by Professor Jan Abel Olsen, Arctic University of Tromsø.

In December **Rowena Jacobs** was invited to a Mental Health Roundtable with Mental Health Reform Ireland and the Health Service Executive to discuss increased funding levels for mental health in Ireland.

**James Love Koh** and **Susan Griffin** presented at the NICE Technical Forum, in Manchester 21 February on 'Providing information about the health inequality impact of public health recommendations'. Susan also presented at the NICE Health Economists in Guidelines meeting at NICE in Manchester 25 February on 'Kinked thresholds' and presented for an ISPOR Scientific Summit Webinar on 28 February entitled 'Novel approaches to value assessment, within the cost-effectiveness framework'.

**Helen Weatherly** gave an invited presentation entitled 'Economic evaluation methods applied to social (long term) care interventions: where are we now?' at the University of Warwick on 28 February.

Please see our website for more information about these and other [presentations and visits](#).

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## Latest CHE research papers

**159** Recommendations for the development of a health sector resource allocation formula in Malawi.

Finn McGuire, Paul Revill, Pakwanja Twea, Sakshi Mohan, Gerald Manthalu, Peter Smith.

**160** Incorporating concerns for equity into health resource allocation. A guide for practitioners. James Love-Koh, Susan Griffin, Edward Kataika, Paul Revill, Sibusiso Sibandze, Simon Walker

**161** Assessing health opportunity costs for the Indian health care systems. Jessica Ochalek, Miqdad Asaria, Pei Fen Chuar, James Lomas, Sumit Mazumdar, Karl Claxton

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