Module 2

Health Economics: Concepts and Analysis

Module Workbook

2017 - 2018 academic year
STRUCTURE OF THE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES

Module 1
Basic Economic Concepts

Module 2
Health Economics: Concepts and Analysis

Module 3
Introduction to Health Care Evaluation

Module 4
The Economics of Health Care Systems

Module 5
Statistics for Health Economics

Module 6
Further Topics in Economic Evaluation

Module 7
Assessing the Impact of Medical Technologies on Health

Module 8
Outcome Measurement and Valuation

Module 9
Decision Analysis for Health Technology Assessment
STRUCTURE OF MODULE 2: Health Economics: Concepts and Analysis

Unit 2.1  
Is Health Care Different?

Unit 2.2  
The Determinants of Health

Unit 2.3  
Risk and Insurance

Unit 2.4  
Demand: Consumer Incentives

Unit 2.5  
Supply: Provider Incentives

Unit 2.6  
Equity in Health and Health Care
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Guide to Module 2

Learning aims and objectives

This is a Level 7(M) module and is compensatable in certain circumstances. Please refer to the Programme Handbook, section 4, for full details.

Learning aims

To introduce you to the basic concepts and methods of analysis used in health economics and to show why they are relevant for health and health care.

Learning objectives

Upon successful completion of the module you should be able to:

• Explain, from an economic perspective, what is special about health care.

• Explain, and be able to give examples of, the factors that influence the demand for health care and how those demanding health care respond to incentives in different types of health care system.

• Explain, and be able to give examples of, the interactions between supply and demand in different health care systems and the implications for efficiency and for equity.
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- Critically appraise case studies that illustrate the concepts that are covered in the module. Explain the policy relevance of these applications.

In addition to these, you should ensure you can meet the learning objectives outlined at the start of each unit.

Credits, timing and assessed work

The module is worth 20 credits and should take approximately 200 hours to complete over 12 weeks of study, including the module assessment (see below). The following is a guide to the amount of time you might spend on each unit, although you are of course free to fit your study time to your own circumstances.

- week commencing 15/1/2018. Week 3. Unit 2.2.
Module assessment

The two pieces of assessed work, to be submitted on or before the dates detailed above, are taken from one of last year’s examination papers, a copy of which is available on Yorkshare’s ‘Content’ page for Module 2. They are:


Please note that programme staff are under no obligation to mark assessed work that is submitted late - this applies to all modules.

The summative assessment for this module is by unseen written examination completed in the final week. Please read the Programme Handbook carefully for the regulations regarding assessment and award at Postgraduate Certificate level.

On-line learning: Yorkshare

The module is supported by the Yorkshare virtual learning environment located at:

vle.york.ac.uk

You can access this using your username and password which are separately supplied. Exercises which should be discussed on Yorkshare are flagged in the text with the computer icon.
For the benefit of those returning to the PGCert from previous years, we repeat the advice about reading that is contained within the Module 1 workbook for 2017-2018:

The main teaching materials are contained within this workbook. References to books and papers are noted in this workbook by the book icon. These may be ordered from the University of York’s library, or you might find them in your local UK Libraries Plus library. If you work in the NHS, your local professional librarian may prove helpful.

The following textbook is supplied to you to accompany your study:


Although this textbook is quite ‘U.S.-orientated’, it contains some good introductory material for this module and more advanced material that will be referred to in later modules, especially Modules 2 and 5. For those of you unfamiliar with the ‘jargon’ of health economics, Folland et al. contains a useful ‘Glossary’ at the back.

In the ‘reading’ sections of this workbook, the first set of page numbers refers to the ‘8’ edition, the second set (in ‘[]’) to the ‘7e’ edition and the third set (in ‘()’) to the ‘7’ edition.