Evaluation of Health Care

Module Code: ECO00015M  Credits: 20  Term: 1 - 2
Contact Hours: 27 x 2-hour Lectures, 4 x 2-hour Seminars (62 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Professor K. Claxton

Overview:

The module content includes: alternative methods of clinical evaluation, such as observational and experimental designs, as well as systematic reviews of clinical evidence and meta-analysis; the measurement and valuation of health outcome; introduction to welfare economics; alternative approaches to questions of social choice; different methods of economic evaluation, such as cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis; appropriate decision rules in economic evaluation; discounting health benefits; and the role of decision analytic modelling in the evaluation of health care technologies.

Aims:

To provide a thorough understanding of the methods used to evaluate health care technologies. This requires an understanding of methods across different disciplines including epidemiology, clinical evaluation and economic evaluation.

Objectives:

On completing the module a student will:

- have a thorough knowledge of the relevant literature;
- be able to critically appraise published evaluations;
- have some practical experience of implementing appropriate methods.

Assessment:

You are expected to hand in one piece of written work during the term which can be based on your seminar presentation. The essay should be short (750-1,500 words) and typed. These essays are an important part of the preparation for the examinations and will be a valuable part of your revision. There will be a three-hour unseen examination scheduled in the Summer Term.

Pre-requisites:

Only available to students registered for the MSc in Health Economics and visiting students.
Main References:

The reading list covers the core lecture material in epidemiology and economic evaluation of health care. Additional reading may be given in individual lecture handouts circulated at the beginning of the lecture.

There is no single text with covers the all the epidemiology and economic evaluation components of this module. However, Drummond et al (2015) comes very close to a course text book. It should be regarded as necessary but not sufficient for your studies.


The following books will also be referred to: