# Chapter 6 Decision making in the health care sector: the role of public health – questions

Self assessment

Question 1 of 6

Before we introduce any public health intervention we need to ensure that it is acceptable to the people at whom it is directed. Which of the following measures is likely to be most unacceptable to the public?

1. Cervical screening
2. Breast screening
3. Opportunistic screening for obesity in primary care setting
4. Screening for colorectal cancer using sigmoidoscopy
5. None of the above Question 2 of 6

Which of the following is an example of an indirect cost?

1. Cost of the drug trastuzumab in breast cancer
2. Cost of a ten-minute consultation with a GP
3. Costs of heating and lighting the practice premises
4. Cost of a nicotine replacement therapy prescription
5. All of the above Question 3 of 6

In which of the following type/s of economic evaluation are the benefits measured in quality adjusted life years (QALYs)?

1. Cost minimisation analysis
2. Cost benefits analysis
3. Cost utility analysis
4. Cost benefit analysis
5. None of the above Question 4 of 6

An Integrated Care Board compared the cost of using generic statins as opposed to the branded drug and concluded that £500,000 could be saved if all prescriptions were switched to the generic version. This is an example of:

1. Cost effectiveness analysis
2. Cost utility analysis
3. Cost minimisation analysis
4. Cost benefit analysis
5. None of the above Question 5 of 6

Which of the following is most suitable to compare benefits across different types of interventions?

1. Cost effectiveness analysis
2. Cost utility analysis
3. Cost minimisation analysis
4. Cost benefit analysis
5. None of the above Question 6 of 6

The most useful economic analysis in the field of public health is:

1. Cost effectiveness analysis
2. Cost utility analysis
3. Cost minimisation analysis
4. Cost benefit analysis
5. None of the above Short answer questions

Question 1 of 10

What are the key questions to be answered before making a decision to fund an intervention in a publicly funded healthcare system such as the National Health Service in the UK?

Question 2 of 10

Define ‘need’ and give an example of need at a population level? Question 3 of 10

It may be harder to justify spending funds on public health interventions than other types of interventions (such as pharmaceuticals). Why is this?

Question 4 of 10

Define the term ‘economic evaluation’. Question 5 of 20

What does the term ‘opportunity cost’ refer to? Question 6 of 10

Define ‘marginal cost’.

Question 7 of 10

What are the four main types of economic evaluation? Question 8 of 10

What are the disadvantages of using Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) as the basis for making resource allocation decisions?

Question 9 of 10

What are the principles of bioethics put forward by Beauchamp and Childress? Question 10 of 10

What are the rules of bioethics put forward by Beauchamp and Childress?

Interactive exercises

Access the England OHID Spend and Outcome Tool at the link below (SPOT). Use a Local Authority of your choice, familiarise yourself with the SPOT output and reflect on the reasons for the findings and how the issues can be addressed.

<https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/spend-and-outcomes-tool/#!/>

# Web based resources and additional resources

# [NHS England Guide to commissioning](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/)

# [BMJ series on economic evaluation](https://www.bmj.com/specialties/economics-notes)

# [Information from NHS England on Specialised Commissioning](https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/)

# [NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED](https://www.york.ac.uk/crd/))

# [PHE Guide to health economics for Public Health teams](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-economics-a-guide-for-public-health-teams)

# [UK NICE Guide to assessing cost-effectiveness](https://www.nice.org.uk/process/pmg6/chapter/assessing-cost-effectiveness)

# UK NHS [Commissioning Policy: Ethical framework for priority setting and resource allocation](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/cp-01.pdf)

# [Nuffield Trust policy briefing on ‘fair prioritisation’ (2021)](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/questions-of-fairness-how-should-the-nhs-prioritise-people-waiting-for-care)