

## **The role of cost information in health system decisions to adopt new services**

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Persons running health systems

### **ABSTRACT:**

**Background/Aims:** Decision-makers routinely make decisions about what interventions to adopt within a limited budget. Cost-effectiveness analyses (CEA) could aid health system decision-makers in evaluating interventions. Yet little is known about how useful typical published CEA are to decision-makers, or whether they provide the type of information most useful in the decision process.

**Methods:** We conducted qualitative interviews by telephone with 38 public and private health decision-makers. We discussed decision-making process, information used, and use of cost information. All transcripts were coded by trained coders, then the team decided on final themes. We looked at results by size of organization and type of service under evaluation (medical or mental health).

**Results:** Participants reported a variety of factors, both internal and external to their organizations that were perceived to influence adoption. The two most highly endorsed factors were clinical effectiveness and financial feasibility. Most participants reported wanting information on direct costs of an intervention, and about half of the participants wanted CEA. Most participants reported differences in decision-making between medical and mental health interventions.

**Conclusions:** Cost information is important to all the organizations and decision-makers we interviewed. However, typical published CEA may not contain some of the cost information needed by decision-makers.

### **OBJECTIVE(S):**

- Discuss the role of cost information in health system decision-making.
- Identify the types of information most useful to decision-makers.

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