

The application of review methods in economic evaluation; the example of social services

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Overview

- The application of review methods to economic evaluation in health
- The distinguishing features of social services
- Implications for methods in economic evaluation of social services



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Economic evaluation...a very brief introduction

- 2 key contributions of economics to evaluation
 - Include resource consequences alongside evidence of effect (opportunity cost)
 - Valuation of intervention effects



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Economic evaluation...a very brief introduction

		Effectiveness			
		↑	-	↓	?
Cost	↓	✓	✓	JR	
	-	✓	X ✓	X	
	↑	JR	X	X	
	?				



Using reviews to inform economic evaluation

- Review of economic evaluations
- Review of effect + cost data obtained from economic evaluation
- Review of effectiveness + cost drivers
- Review of effectiveness + secondary searches and primary data collection identify resource use, cost and utilities



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Decision models

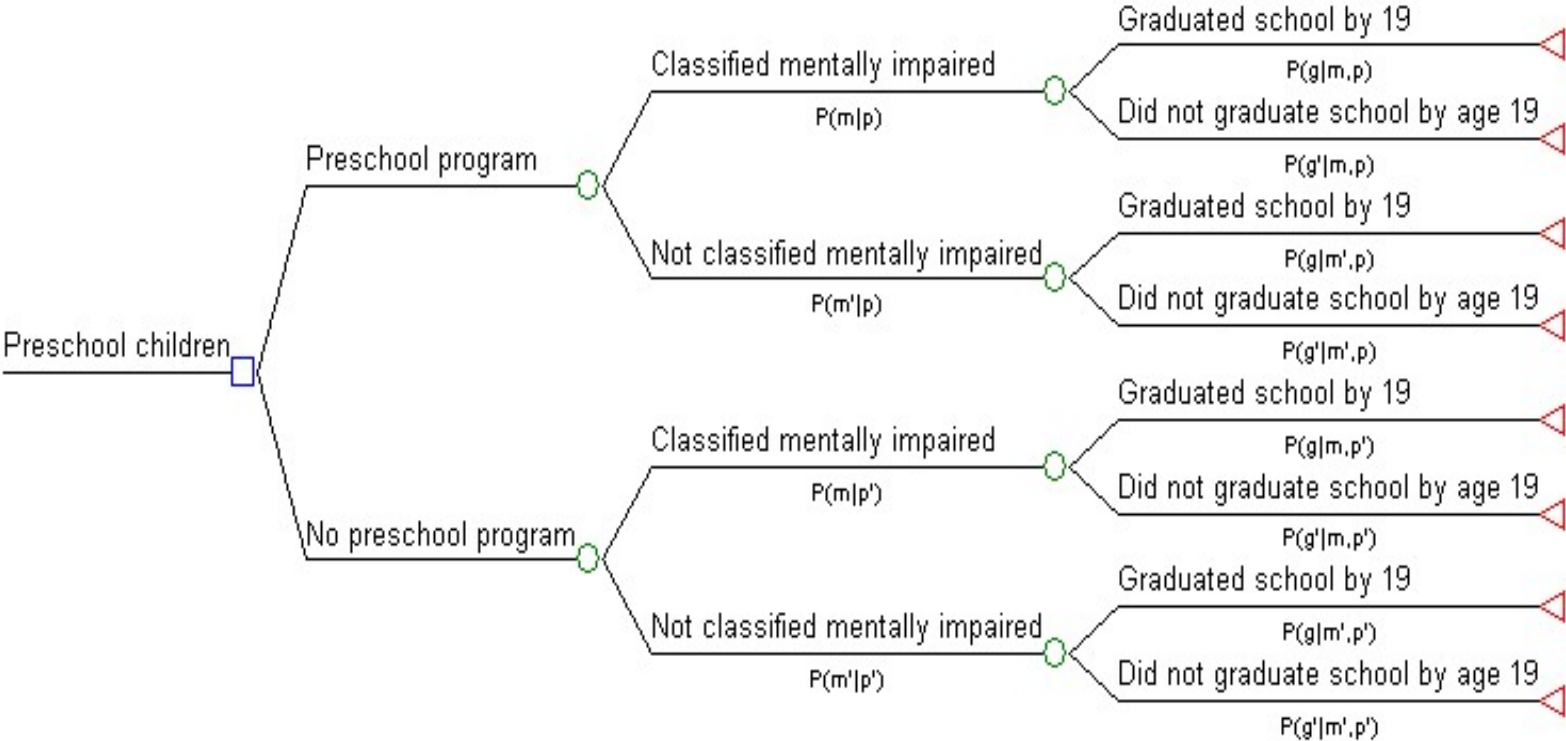
- Synthesise data from different sources
- Recommended by a number of organisations
 - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
 - Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health
- 3 steps / types data
 - Event pathways
 - Probabilities
 - Costs / utilities



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Decision models



Decision models

- There is a lack of guidance
 - Search strategies
 - Expense of systematic search for all parameters
 - Require more efficient strategies
 - Define 'sufficient'?
 - Data quality
 - Need quality grading tools for different data types
 - Compare bias across data types?



Social services differs from health

- The mix of funding streams and decision makers
- The range of provider agencies
- The personalisation agenda
- The importance of equity
- The predominance of informal care



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Complexity of social services

- Diversity of funding
- Range of stakeholders
 - Including people who use services and their families
 - Including other agencies – not *just* social services



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Centrality of service users and carers

- The personalisation agenda
- Costs - to service users and carers
- Benefits - reflecting service user views
- A QALY for social care?



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Role of informal care

- Substantial contribution to total care provided
- The cost of informal care *should* be valued but, how?
- Problems associated with
 - Identifying time spent in a 'caring' role
 - Measuring informal care
 - Valuing informal care



Dealing with a limited evidence base

- Quantity
 - Health 450 – 30 Social welfare
- Quality – “varying”
 - Lack a comprehensive assessment of costs
 - No control for bias
 - No comparison group



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Fairness and efficiency

- Equality and diversity
- Who benefits and who loses?



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Discussion: summary

- Gaps in evidence: require decision models
- Lack guidance: search + quality assessment
- Non-health: specific challenges



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Discussion: implications

Challenge	Primary work	Review work
Limited evidence	Need more	Database of econ studies Decision models Quality grading tools?
Range of stakeholders	Multi-sector perspective	Multi-sector perspectives Time and resources
Outcomes	Social care QALY SWB	Jurisdiction specific? Quality grading
Fairness	Value of effect vs equity vs procedural justice?	Sub-group analysis Identify procedures Jurisdiction specific?
Informal care	Cost of informal care?	Extract data e.g. carer time + outcomes