ECONOMIC EVALUATION IN SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

WHAT IS THE COCHRANE SCHIZOPHRENIA GROUP DOING?

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COCHRANE SCHIZOPHRENIA GROUP

The CSG is concerned with the evaluation of the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of people with non-affective, functional, psychotic illnesses and its work and website focuses on two main areas:
• The first is the preparation, publication and maintenance of systematic reviews of the effects of interventions for schizophrenia.
• The second is the development and maintenance of a specialised register of trials relevant to the scope of the group’s work.

CURRENT POSITION OF ECONOMIC EVALUATIONS WITHIN SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

• Most Cochrane Schizophrenia Reviews do not incorporate economic evaluation within them → This is a problem!
• Not possible to develop cost-effectiveness models for all reviews → possible resource wastage.
• Sometimes economic questions might even be irrelevant → each review needs to be considered on an individual basis.
• But → in times of austerity → economic considerations cannot be ignored.
• All is not lost → CSG plans to lead the way !!!

PLANS

1st Part – Build a New “Schizophrenia Economic Database”

2nd Part – Have a Protocol “Formula”

COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS REGISTRY

• Comprehensive database of 2,815 cost-utility analyses.
• Summarizes and reviews published, original, English-language cost-utility analysis articles.
• Has advanced Search which allows more complex searches using additional search fields and extended Boolean logic.

ECONLIT

• Comprehensive index of journal articles, books, book reviews, collective volume articles, working papers and dissertations.
• Easily searchable format and has an advanced search facility.
• Subject coverage includes public economics, health and welfare and others.

NHS EED

• Focuses on the economic evaluation of health care interventions.
• As soon as a study is identified as meeting the inclusion criteria, brief details are published on the database and abstract written.
• Studies conducted in, or that are relevant to the UK health care system are considered priorities and fast tracked.

HEED

• Health Economic Evaluations Database was initially developed as a joint initiative.
• HEED is updated monthly. Every month on average 250 new references are added.
• Can be searched using over 70 fields

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PROBLEMS

• Some not intuitive, limited export options (both by number and reference managers supported).
• Considered only 4 databases – there might be “plenty more fish in the sea”.

FUTURE PLANS

• 6 monthly updates of the new “Schizophrenia Economic Database”
• All potential reviewers will be asked if they want an economic component to their reviews
• The review will contain a narrative of included economic evaluations
• If “vitaly important” and “interested” → assist in developing cost-effectiveness model for the review.

“When I was young I used to think that money was the most important thing in life and now that I am old, I know it is.” — Oscar Wilde

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