MD990-20 Introduction to Health Economics (for non-economists)

20/21

Department
Warwick Medical School
Level
Taught Postgraduate Level
Module leader
Lazaros Andronis
Credit value
20
Module duration
11 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Module web page

Module aims

The aim of this module is to provide an understanding of economic concepts and their relevance to decisions around the allocation of health care resources. This understanding will be at the level where participants will be able to critically appraise health economic studies and engage with health economists working with them as advisors or research collaborators.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The syllabus will include the following sections:

Economics applied to health and health care

- An overview of key concepts in economic theory and their application in health care.

Health care systems – ethical and economic considerations.

- A comparison of alternative international approaches to funding and providing health care, and a discussion about the degree to which different systems achieve key objectives, such as basic coverage, efficiency and equity.

Conducting and appraising economic evaluations

- An overview of the principles of economic evaluation, and the methods used to measure and value costs and benefits of health care.

Decision modelling and representations of uncertainty in economic evaluation.

- An overview of the need for modelling in economic evaluation, the methods used for economic models, and how decision uncertainty is presented in economic evaluation.

Use of economic evaluation findings to inform policy making

- An overview of the role, extent and mechanisms though which results of economic evaluation are used to inform decision making in health care.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- - Acquire and demonstrate an advanced understanding of key economic concepts (such as opportunity cost, efficiency, marginal analysis) and justify the use of these concepts to support health policy.
- - Differentiate between alternative approaches countries use to structure their health care systems and deliver health care, and critique these approaches based on considerations such as population coverage, total spending, efficiency and equity.
- - Acquire and demonstrate an understanding of the methods underpinning economic evaluation in health care, and become aware of key aspects of good practice in undertaking and reporting an economic evaluation

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Subject specific skills

Sound understanding of subject
Critically evaluate
Reflection

Transferable skills

Numeracy
Thinking and problem solving
written communication
oral communication
Teamwork
Organisation & time management
Use of tools and technology
Commercial awareness
Independence and initiative
Adaptability/Flexibility

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	14 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	5 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Practical classes	4 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Private study	175 hours (88%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

Self directed learning

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Written Assignment 1	50%		Yes (extension)
A two-part assessment. Marks will be awarded for each part and will be combined to give an overall module mark. Part A: 1 x 2000 word written assignment to demonstrate understanding and critical thinking about key economic concepts. Part B: 1 x 2000 word written assignment presenting a critical appraisal of a published economic evaluation study.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Written Assignment 2	50%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback will be provided for the written assignments in line with WMS postgraduate assessment criteria. Further verbal feedback will be made available to students on request.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TMDS-B90F Postgraduate Award in Introduction to Health Economics (for non-economists)

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TWMS-B9AA Postgraduate Healthcare Operational Management

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research

- Year 1 of TMDS-B9C2 Postgraduate Taught Health Research