

Systematic evaluation, replication and validation of structural health economic modelling approaches

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Systematic evaluation, replication and validation of structural health economic modelling approaches: lessons learned in the field of obesity

Bjoern Schwander

1. The model structure is the most important “heart piece” of health economic modelling studies, as it impacts all simulated clinical, economic and quality of life outcomes.
2. Transparency of reporting is the precondition of successful model replication and result reproduction, and hence assures the scientific integrity of a health economic model.
3. Health economic models should be externally validated, as it is otherwise not possible for advisors and decision makers to evaluate the predictive quality and validity of a modeling framework.
4. Improving both the transparency of model reporting and proof of predictive quality assures research integrity, and allows advisors and decision makers to (better) rely on the results of a health economic model.
5. Trust and confidence in health economic modelling are central factors to ensure the best allocation of scarce resources, in order to improve the health of individuals and the whole of society.
6. All models are wrong, but some are useful (George Box).
7. The best way to reduce the cost of medical care is to reduce the illness (Arlen Specter).
8. And I believe that the best buy in public health today must be a combination of regular physical exercise and a healthy diet (Julie Bishop).
9. It always seems impossible, until it’s done (Nelson Mandela).
10. Paths are made by walking (Franz Kafka).
11. Every smile you give to the world returns to you a thousand-fold (Chinese Wisdom).