An Introduction to QALYs (Quality Adjusted Life Years)

Here are links to information on concepts and commentaries, as well as cost per QALY values for various health technologies.

A. Introduction to QALYs
   1. Glossary of terms in cost-effectiveness analysis:
      http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cearegistry/glossary.html
   2. What is a QALY? This is a short description of the QALY concept and its calculation:
      http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/band24/b24-7.html
   3. Interpretation of cost-effectiveness ratios (and cost per QALY):

B. Cost per QALY values for selected technologies
   1. Raftery J. NICE: faster access to modern treatments? Analysis of guidance on health technologies. BMJ 2001;323(7324):1300-3. Available: http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/7324/1300. This is an article on NICE guidance in the UK and includes a table on cost per QALY and cost impact on the NHS of various technologies.
   2. The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis CUA Database/CEA Registry includes a catalogue of preference scores obtained from published cost-utility analyses. http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cearegistry/
   3. WHO-CHOICE is a recent initiative from the WHO Global Programme on Evidence for Health Policy that is currently assembling regional databases reporting the costs and effectiveness of key interventions for 17 sub-regions, grouped together on the basis of epidemiology, infrastructure and economic situation. Cost-effectiveness ratios together with raw cost and effect data, and methodological description are available on the web site. The overall aim of the WHO-CHOICE project is to facilitate the transfer of information for economic evaluation between countries or regions allowing it to be modified and applied in another setting. http://www3.who.int/whosis/cea/guide/

C. Papers for discussion

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