

# HEALTH ECONOMICS ON THE INTERNET

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Health economics is increasingly relevant to both public health practice and practitioners. However, the area can appear full of incomprehensible jargon and inaccessible scientific debate. It can also be difficult to know where to start to look for information on costs and the cost-effectiveness of health interventions.

A first port of call will always be a search of the published literature using a bibliographic database. It is also worth searching the National Health Service (NHS) Economic Evaluation Database (EED), available on the Cochrane Library or direct from the University of York.

In addition to the published literature, economic evaluations are often conducted as part of a health technology assessment for local, regional, and national governments. Also, a number of academic health economics centres perform and/or critically appraise economic evaluations of technologies considered by government bodies such as the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in Australia, or the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the United Kingdom. Most of these groups make their reports available online, and several produce guidelines that are useful reminders of approaches to economic evaluation and critical appraisal.

The websites of academic centres for health economics are also a source of information on work-in-progress and on areas of specialisation of individual health economists. For example, while there may not have been an economic evaluation conducted of the latest drug treatment for obesity, there may be a health economist who has conducted work in that area.

If all this fails, contact your local health economics centre and ask for advice.

## HEALTH ECONOMICS CENTRES

### Australia

Centre for Health Program Evaluation  
[chpe.buseco.monash.edu.au](http://chpe.buseco.monash.edu.au)

Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation  
[www.chere.uts.edu.au](http://www.chere.uts.edu.au)

Social and Public Health Economics Research Group  
[www.curtin.edu.au/health/research/sphere](http://www.curtin.edu.au/health/research/sphere)

### Overseas (English language)

International Health Economics Association  
[www.healtheconomics.org](http://www.healtheconomics.org)

Centre for Health Economics, University of York  
[www.york.ac.uk/inst/che](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che)

Health Economics Research Unit, University of Aberdeen  
[www.adbn.ac.uk/heru](http://www.adbn.ac.uk/heru)

Health Economics Research Centre, University of Oxford:

[www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/herc](http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/herc)

Sheffield Health Economics Group

[www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/sheg](http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/sheg)

Health Economics Research Group, Brunel University

[www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/herg](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/herg)

Health Economics Facility, University of Birmingham

[www.hsmc3.bham.ac.uk/hsmc](http://www.hsmc3.bham.ac.uk/hsmc)

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis,  
McMaster University

[www.chepa.org](http://www.chepa.org)

Centre for Health and Policy Studies, University of Calgary  
[www.chaps.ucalgary.ca](http://www.chaps.ucalgary.ca)

## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

The Cochrane Collaboration

[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org); [www.cochrane.org.au](http://www.cochrane.org.au)

The Campbell Collaboration

[www.campbellcollaboration.org](http://www.campbellcollaboration.org)

The Guide to Community Preventive Services

[www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org)

### Australia

Australian Department of Health and Ageing

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Guidelines for evaluation for PBAC and MSAC reports

[www.health.gov.au/pbs/pubs.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/pbs/pubs.htm) (PBAC)

[www.health.gov.au/msac/publications.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/msac/publications.htm) (MSAC)

### Canada

The Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology  
Assessment

[www.ccohta.ca](http://www.ccohta.ca)

### United Kingdom

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

These reports are also published by the NHS Health  
Technology Assessment Centre

[www.nchta.org](http://www.nchta.org)

Further reviews, and an alternative source of the Database  
of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE) and NHS  
EED databases found on the Cochrane Library, can be  
found at the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination  
(CRD). This unit has also published guidelines for health  
technology assessment (CRD Report 4)

[www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd)

## OTHER HEALTH ECONOMICS RESOURCES

More general collections of internet resources on health  
economics can be found at:

[www.medecon.de/hec.htm](http://www.medecon.de/hec.htm)

[www.healtheconomics.com](http://www.healtheconomics.com)

Finally, anyone with more than a passing interest in health  
economics may want to join one of the existing email  
discussion lists. The main list is organised by Bruce  
Hollingsworth at Monash University and details are  
available at:

[www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/healthecon-discuss.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/healthecon-discuss.html) 