

Program evaluation and decision-analytical modelling: Estimating the cost-effectiveness of the English hip fracture pay-for-performance scheme

Presenter: A/Prof. Nils Gutacker

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Seminar Room 410, Level 4
207 Bouverie Street, Carlton**

Cost-effectiveness analysis assesses whether the long-term health benefits of a new medical technology or intervention outweigh its opportunity costs, i.e. the health benefits which could be generated using those same resources for other purposes. This value-for-money assessment has become an important feature of health technology assessment (HTA) in many jurisdictions. However, it is rarely applied to the evaluation of health policies or system-level interventions, where the focus is often on changes in clinical processes or short-term surrogate outcomes such as 30-day mortality rates.

In this talk, I will reflect on the likely reasons for this disparity and present on-going research on the cost-effectiveness of a national pay-for-performance (P4P) scheme for hip fracture care in the English NHS. This P4P scheme was introduced in 2010 with the aim of improving adherence to nine process standards that reflect current best practice. We use methods from the field of applied econometrics (difference-in-difference analysis) and HTA (decision-analytical modelling) to evaluate whether the policy has generated health benefits at acceptable incremental costs, and to inform future revisions of the scheme's incentive structure.



A/Prof. Nils Gutacker is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK. His research focuses on the identification and explanation of performance variation between healthcare providers and the design and evaluation of incentive systems to address unwarranted variation. Most of his work relies on large administrative datasets in primary and secondary care ('big data') to which he applies programme evaluation methods suited for causal inference. He recently completed a series of evaluations of pay-for-performance schemes in the English NHS, collectively known as 'Best Practice Tariffs'.