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HEDS

# HEDS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011

Vol 6.1

## WELCOME

Welcome to the summer HEDS newsletter, which covers some of the key developments in our research, consultancy and teaching portfolio. Firstly, it is fantastic for us to begin our remit as the **Department of Health's Economic Evaluation Policy Research Unit (EEPRU)**, working jointly with colleagues and friends in York.

Also in this issue we remind you that our new Masters course begins in September. The **MSc International Health Technology Assessment, Pricing and Reimbursement** is distance learning and part-time, enabling people from HTA, industry and consultancies to build a full education in international HTA with people from all around the world. This course builds on our extensive experience of consultancy and research with both industry and HTA bodies.

Finally, we will be around the world on several conferences over the next few months. In particular, we will be sending a large team of people to the Madrid ISPOR conference in November. We would welcome people coming to engage with us on any aspect of HTA, health economics and decision science.



## HEDS LAUNCHES ECONOMIC EVALUATION UNIT

A major new Economic Evaluation Unit (EEPRU) is starting at HEDS as a result of successfully bidding to be one of the Policy Research Units funded by the Department of Health (DH). The Unit was created following a strategic decision to identify key DH policy need and to review its existing policy research capacity. It is a collaboration between the School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield and the Centre for Health Economics, University of York. Directed by Professor John Brazier (University of Sheffield) with Professor Mark Sculpher (University of York) as his deputy, the Unit will undertake economic evaluation of health and care interventions.

The full title of the Unit is the Policy Research Unit in Economic Evaluation of Health and Care Interventions. Its aim is to assist policy makers at DH to improve the allocation of resources in health and social care by providing: 1) a fast and responsive programme of work; 2) a longer-term programme of applied work evaluating specific interventions; and, 3) a programme of methods development to better meet the challenges of conducting economic evaluation. The Unit will apply the highest methodological standards appropriate to meeting the needs of policy makers in a flexible, timely and relevant way.

The Unit's work programme will evolve to meet the needs of DH. Work currently in progress within HEDS is as follows:

### Applied work

#### Obesity

- Theme lead – Roberta Ara (r.m.ara@shef.ac.uk)
- The aim is to develop an economic model to demonstrate evidence-based strategies in obesity to improve allocation of resources at a local community level to support local decision-making.

#### Mental Health

- Theme leads - John Brazier (j.e.brazier@shef.ac.uk) and Mark Sculpher (mark.sculpher@york.ac.uk)
- The aim is to capture whole treatment pathways of care for specific groups of users to inform decisions about management of conditions like long-term depression.

#### Innovations in Technology

- Theme leads - Simon Dixon, University of Sheffield (s.dixon@shef.ac.uk) and Steve Palmer (stephen.palmer@york.ac.uk), University of York
- Health innovations may offer immediate benefits but more often lead to radically new approaches where full benefits are only realised through future developments. This project will develop fresh approaches to economic evaluations to advise on cost-effectiveness of such technologies.

### Methods work

#### Individualised care

- Theme lead – Mark Sculpher
- We aim to develop analyses that will assist in identifying care at individual patient level taking into consideration their responses to interventions and their preferences with regards to outcomes of therapy.

#### Outcomes

- Theme lead – John Brazier
- The aim is to strengthen the measurement of health benefits including reviewing the appropriateness of EQ-5D and methods for analysing PROMs.

#### Intersectoral effects

- Theme leads - John Brazier, and Karl Claxton (karl.claxton@york.ac.uk), University of York
- This programme will investigate methods used to value the effects of health and social care that fall on sectors, organisations and people outside the NHS.

#### Social Care Interventions

- Theme lead - Helen Weatherly (helen.weatherly@york.ac.uk), University of York
- This will address the current gap in the area of carrying out economic evaluations in the context of complex social interventions.

### Responsive work

#### Value-based pricing

- Theme leads – Mark Sculpher and John Brazier
- The aim is to provide evidence on ways to implement aspects of value-based pricing in the NHS (such as burden of illness and a wider social perspective) taking into account the impact of displaced services.

# HEDS News

## THE HEDS BLOG

Launched in October last year, the HEDS Blog is an excellent way to keep up-to-date with what HEDS is doing, UK health policy and updates on important research papers from around the globe. In common with all blogs, it adds items in one continuous stream, but we have also developed it so that it can be used as a source for lots of other information. So, as well as the posts there are:

- Links to the tables of contents of key journals
- RSS feeds covering UK health news, OHE and Kings fund news
- RSS feeds through to the CEA Registry Blog, the Health Economics Blog and other blogs
- Links to search engines and data sources such as Google, NHS Reference Costs and the BNF
- Links to HEDS web pages and reimbursement search tool
- Conference dates within a Google Calendar
- Links through to HEDS Teaching bookmarks

We put up around three posts every week, so it is worth visiting on a regular basis. Alternatively, you can set up an RSS feed or an e-mail update so that you automatically get updates when new items are posted. So far we have had over 1,200 unique visitors from 36 countries. We are always developing the blog in line with feedback, so if you have any ideas about how it could be improved, let us know.

The blog can be found at [www.scharrheds.blogspot.com/](http://www.scharrheds.blogspot.com/)



## CONFERENCES

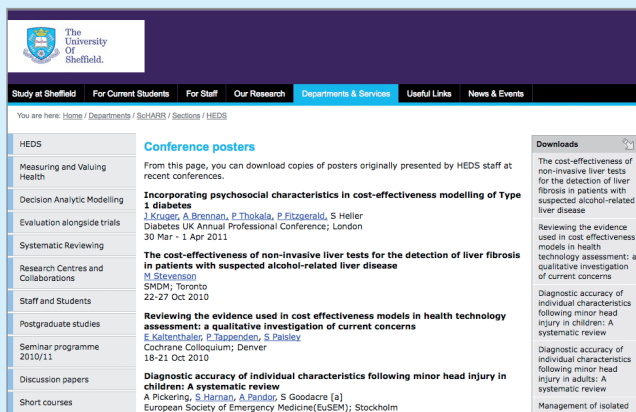
HEDS staff will be attending a number of international conferences over the coming months, including HTAi 2011: HTA for Health Systems Sustainability in Rio de Janeiro during June and ISPOR 14th Annual European Congress in Madrid during November.

Over the last 6 months, HEDS academics have presented posters at the following events:

- The Winter Simulation Conference, Baltimore, December 2010
- Policy Research Programme Engagement Day, Department of Health, London, February 2011
- International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics (ICMPE), Venice, March 2011
- Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference (London, March/April 2011)

To see all HEDS posters, visit

[www.shf.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/posters.html](http://www.shf.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/posters.html)



## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**Jon Tosh** has been awarded an ESRC/MRC/NKHR public sector placement fellowship to provide health economic expertise and training for professionals at the Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH). Jon will also build on his current CLAHRC-funded research modelling long-term depression in Sheffield (IQUESTS project) by adapting the model to the RDASH service design and examining generalisable conclusions.



**Simon Palfreyman** has been awarded a 3-year post-doctoral NIHR clinical lectureship for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. The post is split between research and clinical: the clinical is based in the tissue viability team at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and the research is to develop a preference-based, patient reported outcome measure for use with pressure ulceration.

# NICE DSU and Consultancy

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS NOW ONLINE

The NICE Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal is a regularly updated document that provides an overview of the key principles and methods of health technology assessment and appraisal for use in NICE appraisals. The Methods Guide does not provide detailed advice on how to implement and apply the methods it describes. This DSU series of Technical Support Documents (TSDs) is intended to complement the Methods Guide by providing detailed information on how to implement specific methods.

The TSDs provide a review of the current state of the art in each topic area and make clear recommendations on the implementation of methods and reporting standards where it is appropriate to do so. They aim to provide assistance to all those involved in submitting or critiquing evidence as part of NICE Technology Appraisals, whether manufacturers, assessment groups or any other stakeholder type.

We recognise that there are areas of uncertainty, controversy and rapid development. It is our intention that such areas are indicated in the TSDs. All TSDs are extensively peer reviewed prior to publication (the names of peer reviewers appear in the acknowledgements for each document). Nevertheless, the responsibility for each TSD lies with the authors and we welcome any constructive feedback on the content or suggestions for further guides.

Please be aware that whilst the DSU is funded by NICE, these documents do not constitute formal NICE guidance or policy.



Dr Allan Wailoo,  
DSU Director and  
TSD series editor

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS – COMPLETED OR CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION

Available from [www.nicedsu.org.uk](http://www.nicedsu.org.uk)

Evidence synthesis	
TSD1	Introduction to methods for evidence synthesis
TSD2	A general linear modelling framework for pair-wise and network meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials
TSD3	Heterogeneity, subgroups, bias and bias-adjustment
TSD4	Inconsistency in networks of evidence based on randomised controlled trials
TSD5	Synthesis models for baseline risk
TSD6	Embedding evidence synthesis in probabilistic cost effectiveness analysis: software choices
TSD7	Evidence synthesis: a checklist for reviewers
Health utilities	
TSD8	Application of NICE Methods Guide on the measurement and valuation of health
TSD9	Identification, review and synthesis of HSUV values
TSD10	Mapping
TSD11	Alternatives to EQ-5D for generating health state utility values
TSD12	The use of utility measures in cost effectiveness models
Other	
TSD13	Identifying and reviewing evidence to inform cost effectiveness models
TSD14	Regression methods 1: Extrapolation with patient level data

### About the Decision Support Unit

The Decision Support Unit (DSU) is a collaboration between the Universities of Sheffield, York and Leicester. We also have members at the University of Bristol, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Brunel University.

The DSU is commissioned by The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to provide a research and training resource to support the Institute's Technology Appraisal Programme.

#### Contact us

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## HEDS CONSULTANCY – INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER (I&KT)

HEDS provide consultancy in the form of Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (I&KT) activities to both the public and private sector. We support Health Technology Appraisal (HTA) submissions to policy decision makers such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the Scottish Medicine Consortium (SMC), and similar bodies across the world. In addition to constructing de novo cost-effectiveness evaluations (e.g. ulcerative colitis, systemic lupus), we analyse resource/cost data (e.g. psoriatic arthritis) and conduct systematic clinical reviews synthesising evidence using meta-analyses (e.g. insomnia, cancer) and indirect comparisons (e.g. diabetes, renal disease). We also evaluate adverse events (e.g. cervical cancer), and screening options (e.g. colorectal cancer, prostate cancer). We provide support in all aspects relating to health-related quality of life including: mapping exercises, country specific preference weights, design and construction of condition specific preference measures (see [www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/mvh/csqaqy.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/mvh/csqaqy.html)).

Using staff experience in the HTA submission process and our involvement in the latest revisions of the NICE Methods Guide, we support NICE in identifying and recruiting experts for their Scientific Advice Programme (SAP). The Programme provides advice to companies with products early in the development process. Experts have a wide range of backgrounds including: leading clinicians, senior health service researchers with a working knowledge of NICE and the HTA process, clinical trial design, evidence synthesis, health-related quality of life and health economic modelling. The Programme reinforces HEDS' position as a leading reimbursement research unit with involvement not only in SAP, but in the development of technology appraisals, submissions and research methods. For more information on consultancy matters, email [Roberta.Ara.r.m.ara@shef.ac.uk](mailto:Roberta.Ara.r.m.ara@shef.ac.uk)

### Feedback

HEDS would appreciate your feedback on this newsletter. Please email: [heds.newsletter@shef.ac.uk](mailto:heds.newsletter@shef.ac.uk)  
We look forward to hearing from you.

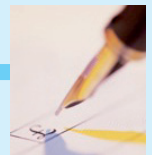


The University Of Sheffield.

# Newsletter HEDS Teaching and Training

## HEDS MSC COURSES

Applications for HEDS postgraduate courses are currently welcomed. For information on all courses, visit [www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/teaching](http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/heds/teaching)



### MSc International Health Technology Assessment, Pricing and Reimbursement

This MSc is the only postgraduate programme offering the entire range of knowledge and skills needed by those developing health technologies for market or involved in commissioning or evaluating health technologies. With a delivery mix of attendance and distance learning materials, the programme is suited to those with busy work commitments in these fields.

Those working in the pharmaceutical, medical devices, or diagnostics industries will gain a comprehensive understanding of the processes and contexts of markets, pricing and customers needed for new product development in multiple jurisdictions.

The course also meets the needs of those involved in health technology policy formulation, management and evidence-based commissioning and purchasing of health technologies for governments or health services. For further information, visit [www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/prospective\\_students/masters/ihapr](http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/prospective_students/masters/ihapr)



### MSc Health Economics and Decision Modelling

This internationally-focussed Masters course is intended to equip participants with the techniques and methods of health economics and modelling to meet these needs. It is ideal for students wishing to pursue a career as a professional health economist/modeller.

The role of mathematical modelling in informing healthcare resource allocation decisions has been increasing over the past two decades.

The MSc in Health Economics and Decision Modelling is the only Masters programme in the UK with a specific focus on the practical application of mathematical modelling to inform healthcare decision problems. This is a truly bespoke course, bridging the gap between the underlying theory and application of mathematical modelling for decision making and more traditional health economics.

If you represent a commercial organisation that would consider undertaking sponsorship of a student on the proposed MSc in Health Economics and Decision Modelling, please go to our website [www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/prospective\\_students/masters/hedm](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/prospective_students/masters/hedm) for further information.

### MSc Economics and Health Economics

This MSc programme is run jointly with the Department of Economics at the University of Sheffield. It is aimed at students who wish to pursue careers as applied economists in the health sector and at those who wish to continue with academic research.

The programme emphasises the development of the advanced analytical and technical capabilities required for applied economics and how these skills can be used to address the important issues and problems involved in allocating resources in the health sector. This emphasis is achieved through first semester economics modules, followed by second semester development and application of these skills.

MSc Economics and Health Economics receives studentship funding offered jointly by the National Institute for Health Research, the Medical Research Council and the Economics and Social Sciences Research Council. The studentship is for full-time UK students and covers the fees and a standard research council stipend. For more information on this course, visit [www.shef.ac.uk/economics/prospectivetpg/courses/msc\\_economics\\_health.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/economics/prospectivetpg/courses/msc_economics_health.html)

## TRAINING COURSES FOR ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS

Places are available to Health and Social Care Practitioners, Pharmaceutical Professionals and Academics. For more information or to book a place, click on the relevant course link in the table below, or contact Jacquie Bennett at [jacquie.bennett@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:jacquie.bennett@sheffield.ac.uk)

Date	Course	Objectives	Suitable for
20 to 22 July 2011	<a href="#">The SchARR Systematic Reviews Course: Practical skills for undertaking reviews</a>	This 3 day course will run again this year allowing participants to gain hands-on experience of conducting a systematic review. Last year's course was a great success generating extremely positive feedback from delegates: "Thank you for an excellent introduction to systematic reviews".	Researchers, pharmaceutical companies, clinicians and academics
6 to 8 September 2011	<a href="#">Evidence Synthesis of Qualitative Research in Europe (ESQUIRE)</a>	This course will follow the systematic review process as it applies, and is adapted to, qualitative evidence syntheses.	Academics
8 September 2011	<a href="#">Issues &amp; Challenges for Qualitative Research in Evidence Synthesis (InCQuiRES)</a>	This methodological update will rehearse the major issues and challenges for the main steps of the systematic review process as it applies, and is adapted to, qualitative evidence syntheses.	Academics