

Study design

- (1) The research question is stated (page 6, paragraph 2, last sentence)
- (2) The economic importance of the research question is stated (introduction, pages 5-6)
- (3) The viewpoint(s) of the analysis are clearly stated and justified (page 7, paragraph 2; page 21, paragraph 2)
- (4) The rationale for choosing the alternative programmes or interventions compared is stated (introduction, pages 5-6)
- (5) The alternatives being compared are clearly described (page 7, paragraph 1)
- (6) The form of economic evaluation used is stated (page 7, paragraph 1)
- (7) The choice of form of economic evaluation is justified in relation to the questions addressed (page 7, paragraph 2)

Data collection

- (8) The source(s) of effectiveness estimates used are stated (page 8, paragraph 3)
- (9) Details of the design and results of effectiveness study are given (if based on a single study) (page 9, paragraph 2)
- (10) Details of the method of synthesis or meta-analysis of estimates are given (if based on an overview of a number of effectiveness studies) (N/A)
- (11) The primary outcome measure(s) for the economic evaluation are clearly stated (page 9, paragraph 3)
- (12) Methods to value health states and other benefits are stated (page 8, paragraph 3)
- (13) Details of the subjects from whom valuations were obtained are given (Table 1)
- (14) Productivity changes (if included) are reported separately (N/A)
- (15) The relevance of productivity changes to the study question is discussed (page 21, paragraph 2)
- (16) Quantities of resources are reported separately from their unit costs (page 8, paragraph 1; Tables 2 & 3)
- (17) Methods for the estimation of quantities and unit costs are described (page 7, paragraph 3; page 8, paragraphs 1-2)
- (18) Currency and price data are recorded (page 11, paragraph 1)
- (19) Details of currency of price adjustments for inflation or currency conversion are given (page 11, paragraph 1)
- (20) Details of any model used are given (page 10, paragraph 1)
- (21) The choice of model used and the key parameters on which it is based are justified (page 10, paragraph 1)

Analysis and interpretation of results

- (22) Time horizon of costs and benefits is stated (page 7, paragraph 2; page 8, paragraph 3).
- (23) The discount rate(s) is stated (N/A)
- (24) The choice of rate(s) is justified (N/A)
- (25) An explanation is given if costs or benefits are not discounted (page 11, paragraph 1)
- (26) Details of statistical tests and confidence intervals are given for stochastic data (Cost data with ci is presented on page 13 and Table 3. QALY weights on page 14 and Table 4. Statistical tests are described on page 11, paragraph 1.)
- (27) The approach to sensitivity analysis is given (page 10, paragraph 2)
- (28) The choice of variables for sensitivity analysis is justified (page 10, paragraph 2)
- (29) The ranges over which the variables are varied are state (Not really applicable to our sensitivity analysis. They are described on page 14, paragraph 4 and page 15, paragraph 2)
- (30) Relevant alternatives are compared (page 7, paragraph 1)
- (31) Incremental analysis is reported (page 14, paragraph 2)

- (32) Major outcomes are presented in a disaggregated as well as aggregated form (Tables 3 & 4)
- (33) The answer to the study question is given (page 21, paragraph 3)
- (34) Conclusions follow from the data reported (page 21, paragraph 3)
- (35) Conclusions are accompanied by the appropriate caveats (page 21, paragraph 3)