

Final report N91 impact

Health Economics Analysis Plans: developing content guidance through consensus

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Original objectives

- To increase the impact of the Health Economics Analysis Plan (HEAP) template developed within the HTMR-funded project N91 by ensuring that it is widely used by professional health economists working on economic evaluations alongside clinical trials.
- To develop a hands-on training session in writing a HEAP, supported by sessions covering the background and rationale for adopting HEAPs (and the HEAP template in particular).

What was achieved

- A training workshop, designed to guide early career health economists in writing analysis plans for economic evaluations conducted alongside randomised controlled trials (RCTs), was held in Bristol on 14 February 2019. The workshop consisted of a mix of practical hands-on sessions and short, targeted lectures, and was led by five expert tutors.
- The workshop attracted 25 attendees, who were mostly at an early career stage; however, there were also a few more senior researchers.
- Participants were encouraged bring their own HEAP to work on in the practical sessions, and approximately 80% of the attendees did so. These participants were split into groups working on similar disease areas to encourage useful discussion. The remaining attendees worked on examples prepared in advance by the tutors. A tutor led each of the small groups to help with any queries as they arose.

- Alongside practical sessions, attendees also benefited from taught sessions contributing to understanding the framework in which a HEAP is created. Topics covered included the rationale for writing HEAPs, the development process undertaken for the HEAP template, HEAPs in the context of other trial documentation and what to do next with a HEAP.
- Feedback from the workshop indicated that participants particularly valued the opportunity to develop their own HEAP, and to discuss the issues that arose. Over 95% of respondents (n=24) rated the speakers and practical sessions as good or excellent.
- The workshop served as a valuable two-way process, with participants contributing to our understanding of how the template might be used in practice.

Outputs and examples of impact

- The workshop was re-developed for the 5th International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference (Brighton, October 2019) and delivered as part of the post-conference workshop programme to paying participants.
- Results from Delphi survey were also presented to a wider audience at the 5th International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference (Thorn *et al*, *Trials* **20**, 579 (2019) doi:10.1186/s13063-019-3688-6).
- A publication from the original project has been prepared for submission to *Value in Health*.
- A draft template has been sent on request to researchers for piloting purposes, including to researchers working outside the UK.
- MRC HTMR funding was acknowledged in all research outputs.

Next steps

- We plan to seek opportunities to capitalise on the workshop preparation by delivering the material at other relevant conferences with a focus on health economics.
- The final template will be disseminated via the DIRUM database (www.dirum.org).
- A guidance document informed by the experiences of pilot testers and workshop attendees is planned.