

Centre for Health Economics

Seminar Series

'The determinants of public reimbursement for drugs: the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme 1994-2004'

Presented by

Associate Professor Anthony Harris

Date: Wednesday 6th September 2006
Time: 1:00-2:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75
Monash University
Clayton, 3800



The paper explores the key factors that have influenced decision by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee since economic evaluation became an integral part of the decision process. The talk draws on a retrospective statistical analysis of a subset of decisions made by the PBAC 1994-2004 and looks at which aspects of clinical and economic evidence have influenced decisions. In particular it examines the relative influence of clinical and economic effectiveness and elements of uncertainty including the Committee's views on the size and precision of the clinical effect as well as the quality of both the clinical and economic data. The broad conclusion is that the likelihood of a positive recommendation from the PBAC is significantly influenced by the evidence of a meaningful clinical gain, but for a given benefit the PBAC is more likely to recommend a listing the lower is the incremental cost per health gain. Other aspects of evidentiary quality are important, and both the potential budgetary cost and the severity of the underlying condition may have an influence on the decision.

Presenter

Associate Professor Anthony Harris is Deputy Director of the Centre for Health Economics. Anthony has held teaching and research positions at the University of Aberdeen, University of Western Australia and Murdoch University and has over 60 refereed articles and book chapters, with 40 in health economics, and the rest in other quantitative areas of economics.

He has been closely involved in the application of health economics to health technology assessment and currently leads a multidisciplinary health technology research team at Monash University. He has been closely involved in health services decision making as member of the Economics Sub-committee of the PBAC, and member of government review committees in the areas of diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology. He is currently team leader on 5 year program modelling the economics of the Australian health care system.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME. The Seminar Series is free of charge. For confirmation of your attendance and further information please telephone 9905 0733 or email che@buseco.monash.edu.au