**Health economics**

We now require that any paper presenting original studies on health economics should conform with the guidelines published in the *BMJ* in 1996, and we ask authors to complete the checklist shown below. For a full explanation, see [Guidelines for authors and peer reviewers of economic submissions to the *BMJ*](http://www.bmj.com/content/313/7052/275.full?ijkey=x5kCW22XZmbro&keytype=ref&siteid=bmjjournals).

The completed checklist is then seen by editors and peer reviewers.

Authors must provide a completed checklist, indicating on which page of the paper each item is dealt with:

**Study design**

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

**Data collection**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (8) The source(s) of effectiveness estimates used are stated |  |
| (9) Details of the design and results of effectiveness study are given (if based on a single study) |  |
| (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) |  |
| (11) The primary outcome measure(s) for the economic evaluation are clearly stated |  |
| (12) Methods to value health states and other benefits are stated |  |
| (13) Details of the subjects from whom valuations were obtained are given |  |
| (14) Productivity changes (if included) are reported separately |  |
| (15) The relevance of productivity changes to the study question is discussed |  |
| (16) Quantities of resources are reported separately from their unit costs |  |
| (17) Methods for the estimation of quantities and unit costs are described |  |
| (18) Currency and price data are recorded |  |
| (19) Details of currency of price adjustments for inflation or currency conversion are given |  |
| (20) Details of any model used are given |  |
| (21) The choice of model used and the key parameters on which it is based are justified |  |

**Analysis and interpretation of results**

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| --- | --- |
| (22) Time horizon of costs and benefits is stated |  |
| (23) The discount rate(s) is stated |  |
| (24) The choice of rate(s) is justified |  |
| (25) An explanation is given if costs or benefits are not discounted |  |
| (26) Details of statistical tests and confidence intervals are given for stochastic data |  |
| (27) The approach to sensitivity analysis is given |  |
| (28) The choice of variables for sensitivity analysis is justified |  |
| (29) The ranges over which the variables are varied are stated |  |
| (30) Relevant alternatives are compared |  |
| (31) Incremental analysis is reported |  |
| (32) Major outcomes are presented in a disaggregated as well as aggregated form |  |
| (33) The answer to the study question is given |  |
| (34) Conclusions follow from the data reported |  |
| (35) Conclusions are accompanied by the appropriate caveats |  |

Authors may enter N/A if an item on the checklist is not appropriate, but this is only acceptable for items 9,10, 12-15, 20, 21, 23-29, and 31.