August 22, 2024

Dear Members of the Editorial Team:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed Viewpoint, “**Modeling Disability-Adjusted Life Years for Policy and Decision Analysis: A Tutorial**,” for consideration in *Medical Decision Making*. We were encouraged to submit our tutorial to MDM after initial queries with the editorial team in 2023.

Our tutorial develops and applies approaches for accurately modeling DALYs in common decision modeling frameworks. We also show that common “shortcut” methods for calculating DALYs (such as an approach based on accumulating time in an absorbing death state, as recommended in TreeAge) will not, in general, yield accurate DALY levels in a population.

Recognizing the wide spectrum of experience across decision scientist practitioners, we offer a basic (beginner) approach that draws on the Markov trace, as well as an intermediate approach that facilitates more efficient DALY calculation for computationally-intensive tasks (e.g., probabilistic sensitivity analyses, value-of-information estimation, etc.). Our tutorial also provide replication code for each approach in the R programming language, as well as instructions for how the approaches can be implemented in an Excel-based model.

We hope you agree our tutorial will be of interest to your readership, and we thank you for your consideration of our work.

Sincerely,



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