Chapter 2: Data-Driven Decision-Making

# Quality Adjusted Life Years

## Corresponding reading: Chapter 2, Page 3

### Purpose: Understanding how *quality adjusted life years* is used to quantify a qualitative factor.

1. Search what “quality adjusted life years (QALY)” means. Describe what it means in your words. Make sure you cite the references you use.
2. Come up with an example *of your own* that demonstrates how QALY can be used to decide between two treatments for the same health issue. *You need to provide numerical analysis.*
3. How much the inferior treatment should be improved to be as good as the superior treatment? This is an important and useful sensitivity analysis.
4. What are the main challenges in implementing the QALY methodology?
5. What are the underlying assumptions of the QALY methodology?
6. Do these assumptions always hold in reality? Give an example for why some of these assumptions may not always hold.

***Note:*** *Understanding the case and what you need to do is PART OF THE CASE. If you do not understand a specific part, or are not sure what you should do, you need to review the corresponding reading section in the text before asking for help. You might also need to do some search on the internet. That is all part of the case and your learning process.*