



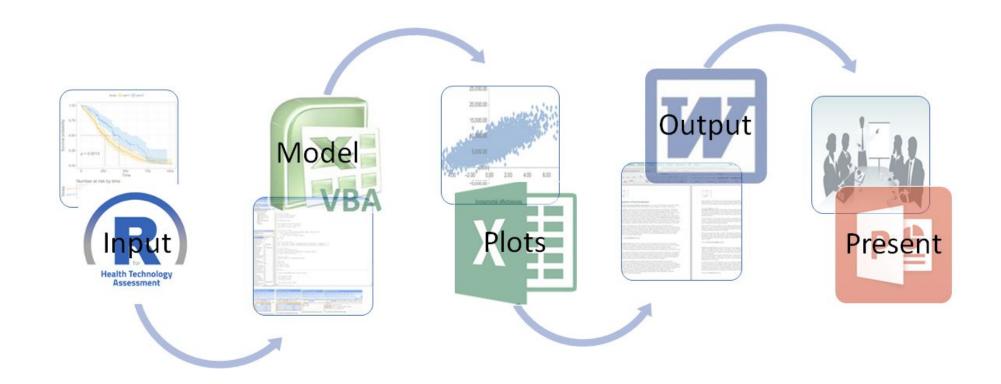
Automating Health Economic Evaluation with R (+ genAl)

R-HTA 25 | Robert Smith | June 2025

- contact@darkpeakanalytics.com
- https://github.com/dark-peak-analytics
- https://www.linkedin.com/company/dark-peak-analytics

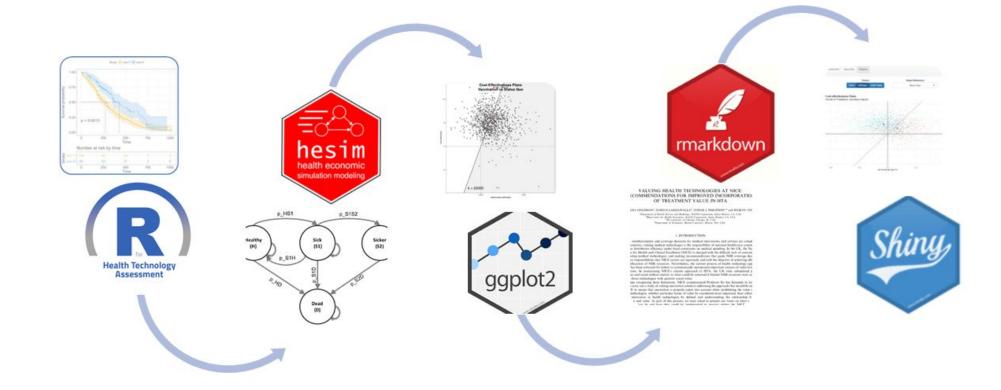
Current process





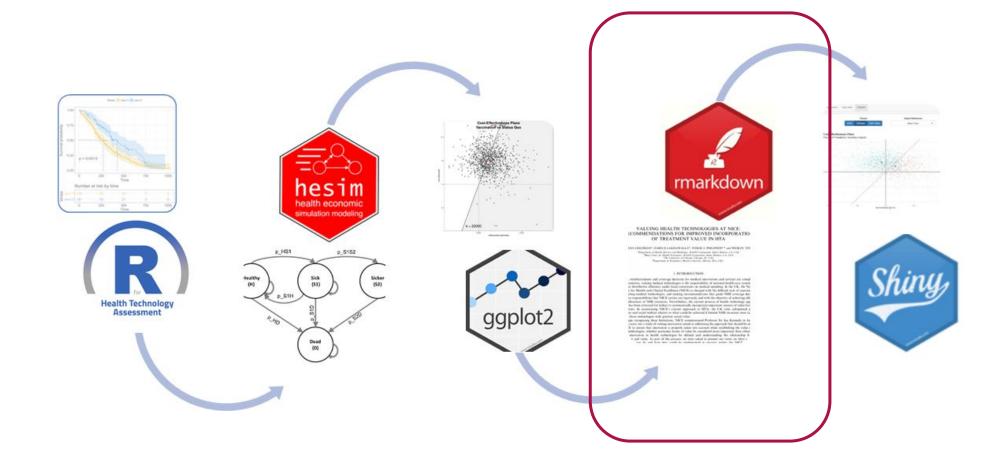
Future process





Future process





Timeline





2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

Making Health Economic Models Shiny: A tutorial

Smith & Schneider. Making health economic models Shiny: A tutorial. Wellcome Open Res 2020, 5:69 (https://doi.org/10.12688/wellc omeopenres.15807.2)

Living HTA: Automating Health Economic Evaluation with R

Smith, Schneider and Mohammed. Living HTA: Automating Health Economic Evaluation with R. Wellcome Open Res 2022, 7:194 (https://doi.org/10.12688/wellc omeopenres.17933.2)

R Packages for health economic evaluation: A tutorial

Smith RA, Mohammed W and Schneider PP. R Packages for health economic evaluation: A tutorial. 2023. (https://wellcomeopenresearc

h.org/articles/8-419)

Smith, Samyshkin, Mohammed et al. assertHE: an R package to improve quality assurance of health economic models. 2024. (https://wellcomeopenresearch.or

g/articles/9-701)

assertHE: an R package

to improve quality

assurance of health

economic models

Automating Health Economic Evaluation with R (+genAl)

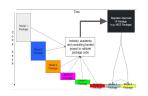
Smith, Lamrock, Dolin, Lewis, McQueen. R we almost there? Applying the advantages of modern software tools to the ICER Severe Asthma Model. In progress

Now a popular short course









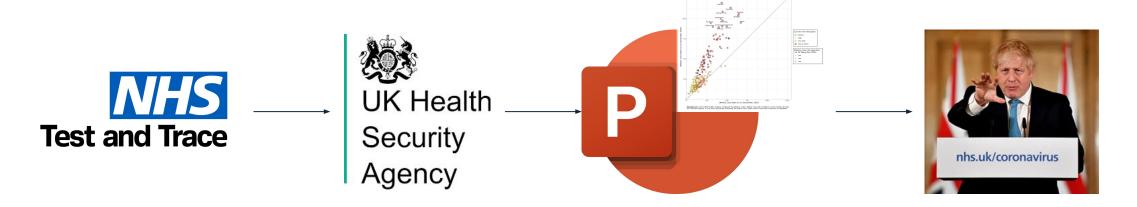




Bibby Open Source on GitHub

Case study: Joint Biosecurity Centre response to COVID-19





Each day, huge quantities of data obtained by NHS T&T

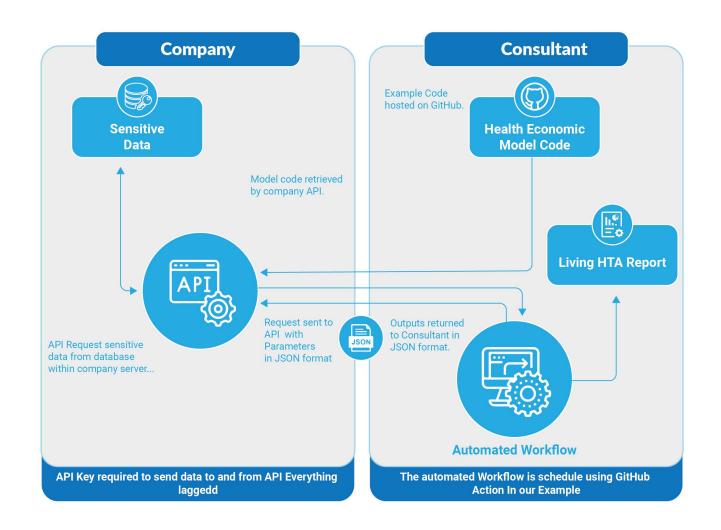
Clever people at JBC (later UKHSA) write code to visualise & describe epi situation Slides generated, using progressively automated processes, checked, and provided to decision makers

Difficult decisions made

Disclaimer: This is a massively oversimplified and intentionally vague description of the process.

Making Health Economics ... hAPpl









Aim

Create a system to automatically update models & modelling reports as new information emerges.

We want this system to:

- Allow users to change input values
- Allow users to change citations
- Re-run the model & get new results
- Generate a modeling report in Word.
- integrate genAl to help us, particularly where:
 - the task is small & self contained.
 - we would just ask chatGPT anyway.





Case study

- ICER model for Severe Asthma originally published in 2021.
- Section 4 contains the Health Economic Model.
- Model developed in Excel & translated to R by Rob & Felicity with colleagues at the University of Colorado.
- Want to allow for automated updates to word format as per Smith, Schneider & Mohammed (2022).
- However, that paper was waaaaayyyy too advanced! This one will be simpler.



Tezepelumab for Severe Asthma

Final Report

December 16, 2021 Updated February 13, 2023

Prepared for



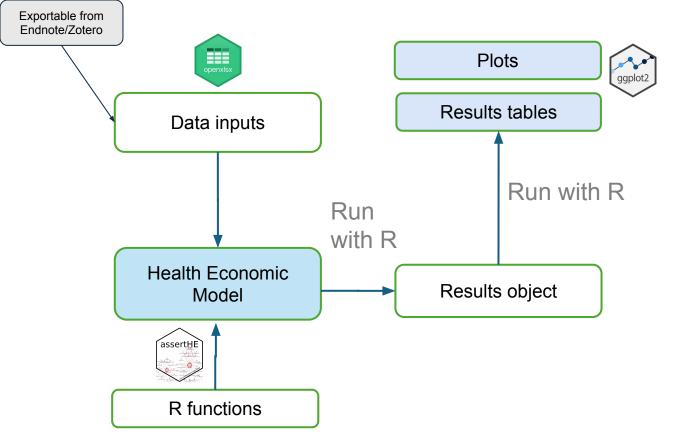
New evidence regarding treatments and therapies gets published on an ongoing basis. ICER reached out to key stakeholders included in this review 12 months after the publication of this report giving them an opportunity to submit public comments regarding new relevant evidence or information on coverage that they wish to highlight. Their statements can be found here.. ICER has launched ICER Analytics to provide stakeholders an opportunity to work directly with ICER models and examine how changes in parameters would affect results. You can learn more about ICER Analytics here.

©Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, 2021

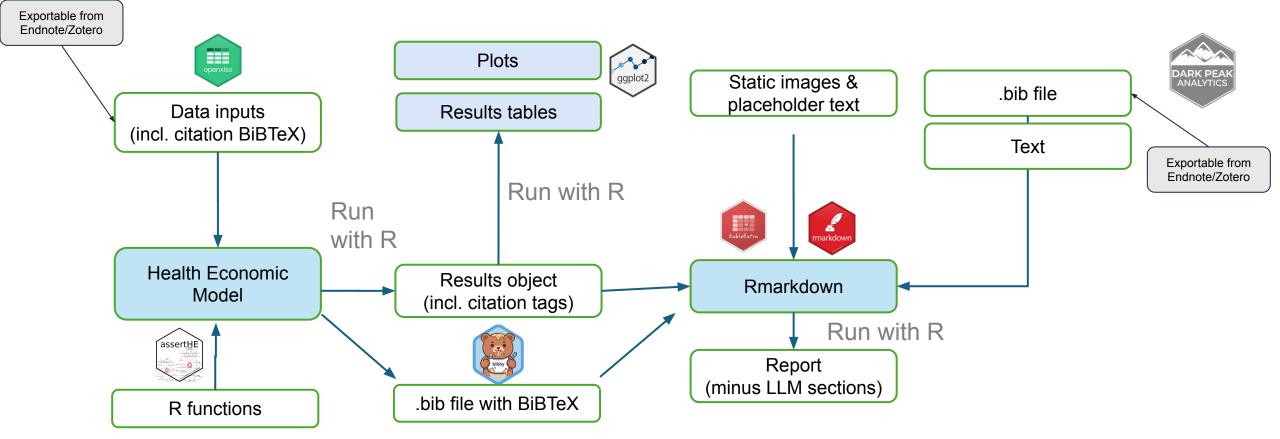
R. Wellcome Open Research, 7, p.194.

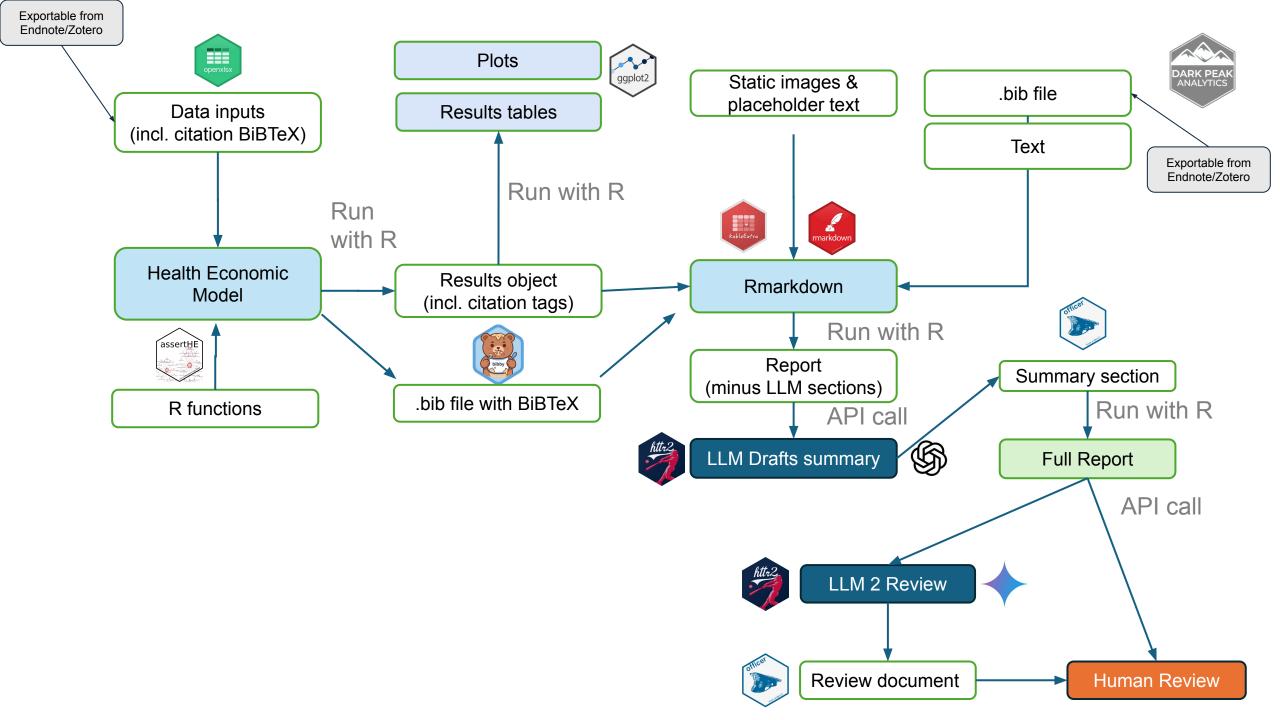
Rind DM, McQueen RB, Herron-Smith S, Herce-Hagiwara B, Gutierrez E, Campbell J, Fluetsch N, Pearson SD. Tezepelumab for Severe Asthma; Final Report. Institute for Clinical and Economic

Smith, R.A., Schneider, P.P. and Mohammed, W., 2022. Living HTA: automating health economic evaluation with

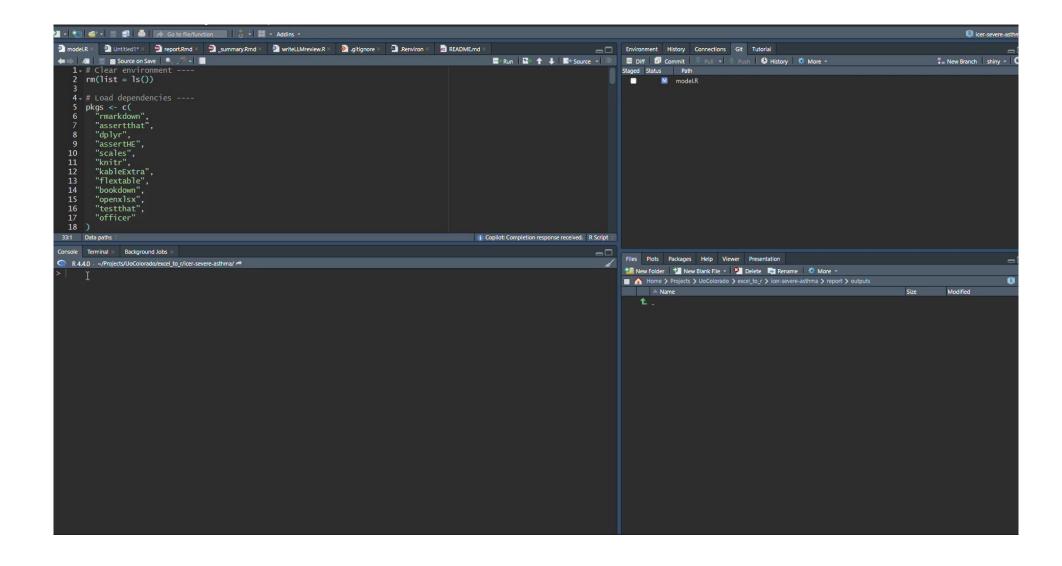














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20 e Eff Relative risk of exacerbation in standard of care	1		article{corren2017tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults with uncontrolled asthma}, author={Corren, Jonathan and Parnes, Jane R and Wang, Liangw	ei and Mo, Ma	y and Roset	i, Stephanie	L and Griff	ths, Jane	et M and var
21 rr Eff Relative risk of exacerbation in treatment	0.36128	lr#0	article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	<mark>rren,</mark> Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Seoffrey a	ind Israel, E
22 rr Eff Relative risk of steroid given exacerbation in treatmer	nt 0.41		article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	rren, Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Seoffrey a	ind Israel, E
23 rr Eff Relative risk of ED given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	rren, Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (eoffrey a	ind Israel, E
24 rr Eff Relative risk of hosp given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	rren, Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Seoffrey a	ind Israel, E
25 u Uti Utility for non-exacerbation state - SoC alone	0.75		article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	rren, Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Seoffrey a	and Israel, E
26 u Uti Utility for non-exacerbation state - Treatment	0.79	b##	article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and C	orren, Jonathar	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Seoffrey a	and Israel, E
27 d Uti Disutility for steroid burst	0.1	b##	article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK}, auth	or={Lloyd, And	rew and Pric	e, David and	d Brown, Ri	ith), journ	nal={Primar
28 d Uti Disutility for ED visit	0.15	b##	article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK), auth	or={Lloyd, And	rew and Pric	e, David and	d Brown, Ri	ıth}, jourr	nal={Primar
29 d Uti Disutility for Hospitalisation	0.2	b##	article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK), auth	or={Lloyd, And	rew and Pric	e, David and	d Brown, Ri	th), journ	nal={Primar
30 d Uti Disutility for chronic OCS users	0.023	b##	article{norman2013omalizumab, title={Omalizumab for the treatment of severe persistent allergic asthma: a systematic review and economic evaluation},	author={Norma	n, Gill and F	aria, R and	Paton, Fa	nd Llewell	lyn, A and F
31 p Uti Percentage Chronic OCS Users	0.096			144					
32 u Uti Utility of a healthy life year	0.851		misc{institute2018qaly, title={The QALY: rewarding the care that most improves patients' lives}, author={Institute for Clinical and Economic Review}, year	={2018}, publi-	sher={Institu	te for Clinica	al and Ecor	omic Rev	view Boston
33 c Co Long-run adverse events costs	C 8326		article{lefebvre2017burden, title={Burden of systemic glucocorticoid-related complications in severe asthma}, author={Lefebvre, Patrick and Duh, Mei She	ng and Lafeuille	e, Marie-H{\'e	e}l{\`e}ne an	d Gozalo, L	aurence a	and Desai, l
34 c Co Annual cost of SOC	6494	g#0	article{whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis}, author={Whit	ington, Melani	e D and Mc(Queen, R Br	ett and Olle	ndorf, Da	uniel A and T
35 c Co Cost of biologic per year	27859		article{whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis}, author={Whit	ington, Melani	e D and Mc0	Queen, R Br	ett and Olle	ndorf, Da	iniel A and T
36 c Co Cost for an outpatient visit	74								
37 J.O. D	0								



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e Eff Relative risk of exacerbation in standard of care	1		@article{corren2017tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults with uncontrolled asthma}, author={Corren, Jonathan and Parnes, Jane R and Wang, Liangwei author=	nd Mo, May	and Roset	i, Stephanie	L and Griff	iths, Janet	M and va
rr Eff Relative risk of exacerbation in treatment	0.36128	Ir#0	@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
rr Eff Relative risk of steroid given exacerbation in treatmen	t 0.41		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
rr Eff Relative risk of ED given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
rr Eff Relative risk of hosp given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
u Uti Utility for non-exacerbation state - SoC alone	0.75		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
u Uti Utility for non-exacerbation state - Treatment	0.79	b##	@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren	, Jonathan	and Bourdi	n, Arnaud a	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey an	id Israel, I
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d Uti Disutility for Hospitalisation	0.2	b##	@article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK}, author={I	Lloyd, Andre	w and Pric	e, David an	d Brown, R	uth}, journ	al={Prima
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p Uti Percentage Chronic OCS Users	0.096								
u Uti Utility of a healthy life year	0.851		@misc{institute2018qaly, title={The QALY: rewarding the care that most improves patients' lives}, author={Institute for Clinical and Economic Review}, year={20	18), publish	her={Institu	te for Clinic	al and Ecor	omic Revi	ew Bostor
c Co Long-run adverse events costs	C 8326		@article{lefebvre2017burden, title={Burden of systemic glucocorticoid-related complications in severe asthma}, author={Lefebvre, Patrick and Duh, Mei Sheng a	nd Lafeuille,	Marie-H{\'e	e}l{\`e}ne an	d Gozalo, L	aurence a	nd Desai,
c Co Annual cost of SOC	6494	g#0	@article{whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis}, author={Whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis},	on, Melanie	D and Mc	Queen, R B	rett and Olle	endorf, Dar	niel A and
c Co Cost of biologic per year	27859		@article{whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis}, author={Whittington2017assessing, title={Assessing the value of mepolizumab for severe eosinophilic asthma: a cost-effectiveness analysis},	on, Melanie	D and Mc	Queen, R B	rett and Olle	endorf, Dar	niel A and
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rr Eff Relative risk of exacerbation in treatment	0.6	Ir#0	@article{williams2023tezepelumab, title={Long-term efficacy of Tezepelumab in patients with eosinophilic airway inflammation: a multicentre phase 3 trial}, author-	={Williams	, Hannah J	and Okafo	r, Chidi and	Tanaka,	Mei and Mi
rr Eff Relative risk of steroid given exacerbation in treatmen	nt 0.41		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren, John Corrent and Corr	Jonathan a	and Bourdin	, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey a	and Israel, E
rr Eff Relative risk of ED given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren, John Corrent and Corr	Jonathan a	and Bourdin	, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey a	and Israel, E
rr Eff Relative risk of hosp given exacerbation in treatment	0.2		@article{menzies2021tezepelumab, title={Tezepelumab in adults and adolescents with severe, uncontrolled asthma}, author={Menzies-Gow, Andrew and Corren, John Corrent and Corr	Jonathan a	and Bourdin	, Arnaud ar	nd Chupp, (Geoffrey a	and Israel, E
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d Uti Disutility for steroid burst	0.1	b##	@article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK}, author={Llo	yd, Andre	w and Price	e, David and	d Brown, R	uth}, jour	nal={Primar
d Uti Disutility for ED visit	0.15	b##	@article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK}, author={Llo	yd, Andre	w and Price	, David and	d Brown, R	uth}, jour	nal={Primar
d Uti Disutility for Hospitalisation	0.2	b##	@article{lloyd2007impact, title={The impact of asthma exacerbations on health-related quality of life in moderate to severe asthma patients in the UK}, author={Llo	yd, Andre	w and Price	e, David and	d Brown, R	uth}, jour	nal={Primar
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c Co Cost for an outpatient visit	74								

Table 2.3: Key Model Inputs 2

Parameter	Tezepelumab plus SoC	SoC Alone	Source
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations	0.361	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in Steroid Burst (without ED visit or hospitalization)	0.410	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in ED Visit (without hospitalization)	0.200	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in Hospitalization	0.200	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Non-Exacerbation Mean Health State Utility for Tezepelumab plus SoC vs SoC Alone (95% CI for tezepelumab mean difference vs. placebo)	0.790	0.75	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)

Table 3.1: Results table

Treatment	Cost	QALYs	LY	evLY
Tezepelumab and SOC	\$776,355	14.526	29.510	14.551
SoC Alone	\$491,215	13.061	28.916	13.061



Table 2.3: Key Model Inputs 2

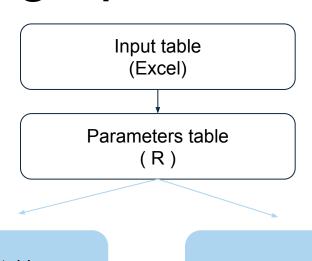
Parameter	Tezepelumab plus SoC	SoC Alone	Source
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations	0.600	Reference group	(Williams et al., 2023)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in Steroid Burst (without ED visit or hospitalization)	0.410	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in ED Visit (without hospitalization)	0.200	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Tezepelumab Rate Ratio for Exacerbations Resulting in Hospitalization	0.200	Reference group	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)
Non-Exacerbation Mean Health State Utility for Tezepelumab plus SoC vs SoC Alone (95% CI for tezepelumab mean difference vs. placebo)	0.790	0.75	(Menzies-Gow et al., 2021)

Table 3.1: Results table

Treatment	Cost	QALYs	LY	evLY
Tezepelumab and SOC	\$792,049	14.279	29.410	14.303
SoC Alone	\$491,215	13.061	28.916	13.061

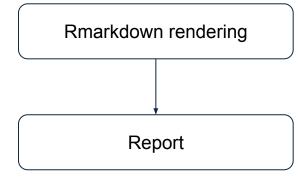
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Managing updates to inputs & citations



Parameters table
Source updated with bib tags

.bib file with original BiBTeX

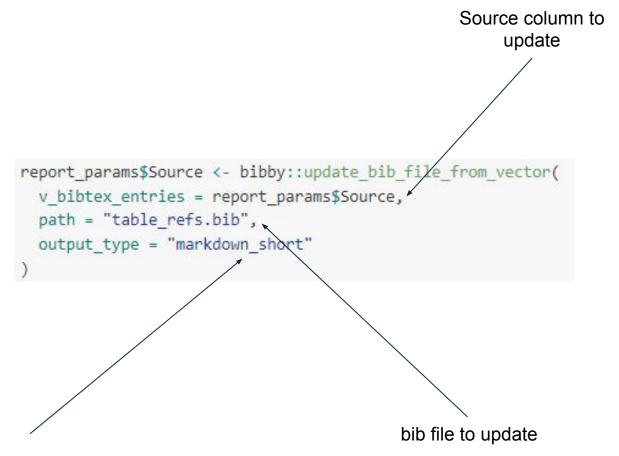




https://github.com/dark-peak-analytics/bibby/



Managing updates to inputs & citations





https://github.com/dark-peak-analytics/bibby/

format

Long: As **Williams et al. (2020)** argue, health policy should be evidence-based. Short: Health policy should be evidence-based (**Williams et al., 2020**).

genAl role



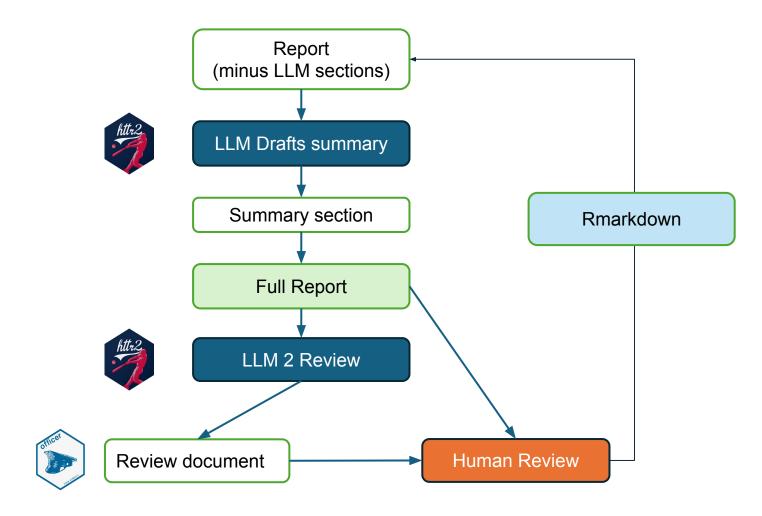
- Minimal input using the LLM via an API request with the httr2 package (Wickham, 2024)
- Small, self contained and quick to validate task human review essential.
- The genAl output is used to generate a fully reproducible set of outputs – the code that is generated will give the same outputs every time.
- Further edits can be made in an independent process.



R/Python are the most logical languages for a genAl tool to interact with a health economic model – Excel is problematic

genAl role







R/Python are the most logical languages for a genAl tool to interact with a health economic model – Excel is problematic

genAl role



```
query 11m <- function(text,
                      base url,
                       model,
                      prompt) {
  full_url <- paste0(base_url, model, ":generateContent")</pre>
  body <- jsonlite::toJSON(list(
    contents = list(
      list(
        parts = list(
          list(text = paste0(prompt, ":\n\n", text))
  ), auto unbox = TRUE)
  response <- httr::POST(
    url = paste0(full_url, "?key=", Sys.getenv("GEMINI_API_KEY")),
    httr::content type json(),
    body = body
  result <- httr::content(response, as = "text", encoding = "UTF-8")
  json <- jsonlite::fromJSON(result)</pre>
  return(json$candidates$content$parts[[1]]$text)
```



R/Python are the most logical languages for a genAl tool to interact with a health economic model – Excel is problematic

Wickham H (2024). httr2: Perform HTTP Requests and Process the Responses_. R package version 1.0.7, http://project.org/package=httr2

Challenges



Higher initial setup time compared to building a single model; efficiency gains typically emerge after ~3–5 value edits or adaptations.

Requires a diverse skillset, including R, R Markdown/Markdown, API calls, prompt engineering, health economic evaluation, BiBTeX referencing, and Excel.

Risk of inconsistency: some changes must be made in multiple locations, increasing the chance of error if not carefully managed.

Potential downsides for team development, including over-reliance on automation and reduced contextual understanding—especially concerning for training junior staff.

Opportunities



Developing a user interface enables non-programmers to contribute meaningfully to the modelling process.

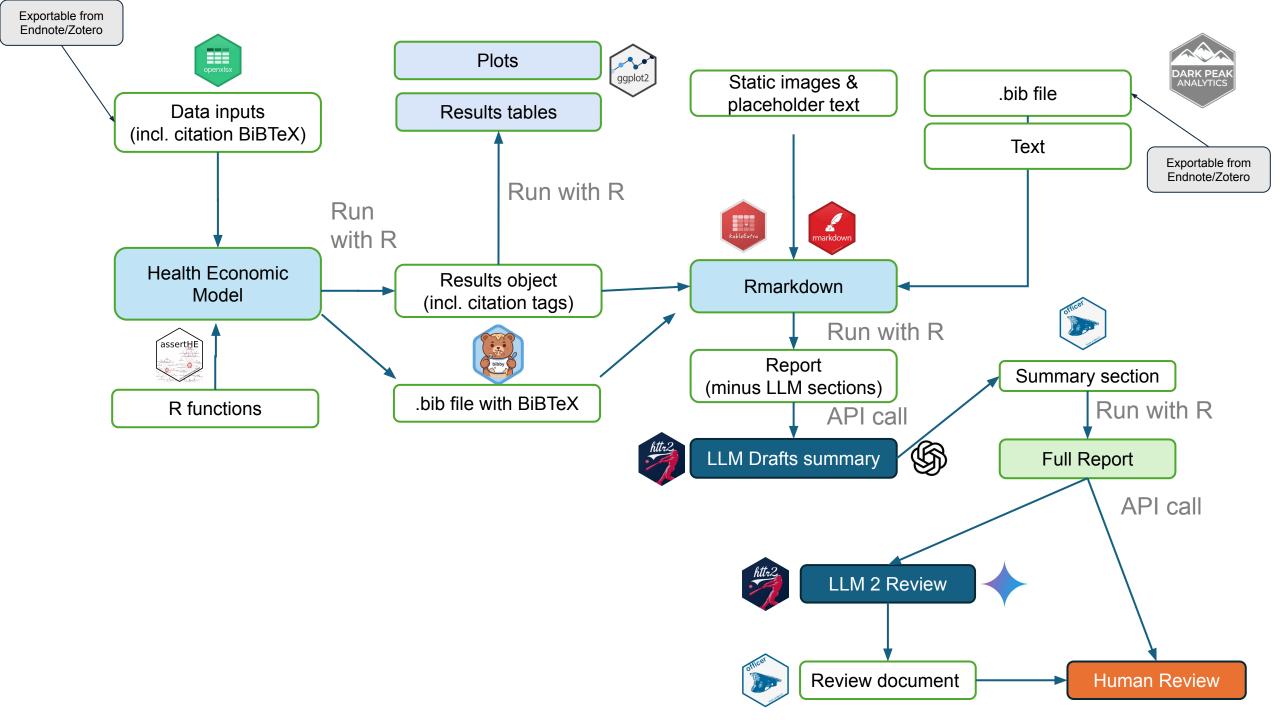
High value in complex or dynamic contexts, such as models covering multiple countries (3+) or those requiring regular data updates (e.g. early models or living HTAs).

Script-based models align well with LLM capabilities, making them easier to review, validate, and incrementally improve.

LLMs can reduce manual effort, taking on minor edits and supporting model validation, freeing up human time from repetitive tasks like copy-pasting.



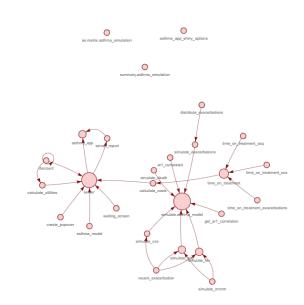
Extra Slides





The inputs

- Inputs provided in Excel with named ranges & read into a list object in R using openxlsx (Schauberger & Walker, 2023).
- Inputs include:
 - Parameter names
 - Parameter values
 - Parameter strings (for use in text)
 - Parameter citations (in BiBTeX format)
- Decision to use named ranges not obvious but preferred by clients.



Excel inputs sheet





The health economic model

- ICER Severe Asthma Model, translated from Excel -> R.
- Model run on input object & results object generated.
- The model is a Markov model with 4 states: mild, ..., dead.
- It runs 1000 PSA iterations in x seconds.
- It is documented in Roxygen & has unit tests for each function as described in Smith, Mohammed & Schneider (2023).

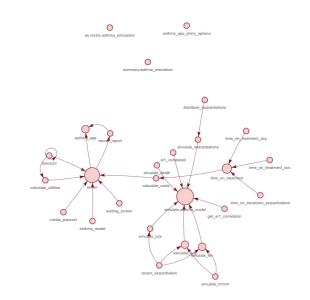


Image showing model structure





The report

- R-markdown report (yes we are aware of Quarto!)
- Tables & plots pulled in from R model outputs
- Text input from multiple files (e.g. introduction.txt), allowing non-technical users to provide their own introduction sections.
- Version controlled on GitHub to allow to link to model used.
- References handled in two .bib files. One provided for references in context text, one autogenerated by R.

Image showing citations process

