HEALTH STATUS MEASUREMENT: A PERSPECTIVE ON CHANGE

ECONOMIC ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE

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Professor Gavin Mooney

Department of Community Medicine
Westmead Hospital
Westmead, NSW 2145
Australia

Dr Alistair McGuire

Department of Economics
City University
Nottingham Square
London EC1V 0HB

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HEALTH STATUS MEASUREMENT: A PERSPECTIVE ON CHANGE

Richard G. Brooks

*Department of Economics
University of Strathclyde*

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In memory of my mother

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Preface

This book is about the development of outcome measures in health, with particular emphasis on health status and health-related quality of life measurement. It is explicitly concerned to place this development within the changing context of the health world, not least its relevance to the changing requirements of health care decision-making at all levels.

Starting with an economic framework which encompasses the requirement to match costs with outcomes, the question is addressed: why has there been such an upsurge of interest in health status measurement in handling outcomes? The present situation is placed into its historical context by showing how health status measures have developed from the early attempts at functional assessment in the 1940s and 1950s. A variety of health status and health-related quality-of-life measures are illustrated and discussed. The methodological requirements for 'sound' health status measurement are outlined, and the measurement process itself – commonly referred to as 'scaling' – is reviewed. Any reading of the burgeoning literature in this field will provide ample evidence of the pervasiveness of the attempts to define, conceptualise, and measure 'quality' as it pertains to the use of resources in the health sector and in the notion of (health-related) quality of life. Issues surrounding quality are thus given some attention. The final two chapters cover a wide range of issues surrounding health status measurement, its place in health services research, and its implications for decision-making.

RICHARD G. BROOKS

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADL	Activities of daily living
AIMS	Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale
C	Celsius
CS	Category scaling
CBA	Cost-benefit analysis
CEA	Cost-effectiveness analysis
CR	Category rating
CUA	Cost-utility analysis
DOMPS	Diseases of medical progress
DUHP	Duke-UNC Health Profile
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
F	Fahrenheit
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FLP	Functional Limitations Profile
FSI	Functional Status Index
FSQ	Functional Status Questionnaire
GHQ	General Health Questionnaire
HAQ	Health Assessment Questionnaire
HCFA	Health Care and Financing Administration
HYE	Healthy year equivalent
IADL	Instrumental activities of daily living
IHQL	Index of Health-Related Quality of Life
JCAH	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals
ME	Magnitude estimation
MHAQ	Modified Health Assessment Questionnaire
MHI	Mental Health Inventory
NHP	Nottingham Health Profile
QA	Quality assurance
QALY	Quality adjusted life-year
QWB	Quality of well-being
RAWP	Resource Allocation Working Party
RCT	Randomised control trial
RS	Rating scale

SAVE	Saved young life equivalent
SG	Standard gamble
SIP	Sickness Impact Profile
TA	Technology assessment
TTO	Time trade-off
UK	United Kingdom
US(A)	United States of America
VAS	Visual analogue scale
WHO	World Health Organisation