

CNSP

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme

CASP Checklist: For economic evaluations

Reviewer Name:	
Paper Title:	
Author:	
Web Link:	
Appraisal Date:	

During critical appraisal, never make assumptions about what the researchers have done. If it is not possible to tell, use the “Can’t tell” response box. If you can’t tell, at best it means the researchers have not been explicit or transparent, but at worst it could mean the researchers have not undertaken a particular task or process. Once you’ve finished the critical appraisal, if there are a large number of “Can’t tell” responses, consider whether the findings of the study are trustworthy and interpret the results with caution.

Section A: Is the economic evaluation valid?	
1. Was a well-defined question posed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i> <i>Is it clear what the authors are trying to achieve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>what is the perspective</i> • <i>how many options are compared</i> • <i>are both costs and consequences considered</i> • <i>what is the time horizon</i> 	
2. Was a comprehensive description of the competing alternatives given?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i> <i>Is there a clear decision tree (or similar given):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>can you tell who did what, to whom, where and how often</i> 	
3. Does the paper provide evidence that the programme would be effective? (i.e. would the programme do more good than harm?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>if an RCT or systematic review was used; if not, consider how strong the evidence was (economic evaluations frequently have to integrate different types of knowledge stemming from different study designs)</i> 	
4. Were the effects of the intervention identified, measured and valued appropriately?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Effects can be measured in natural units (e.g. years of life) or more complex units (e.g. years adjusted for quality of life such as as QALYS) or monetary equivalents of the benefit gained (e.g. \$)</i> 	

Section B: How were consequences and costs assessed and compared?

5. Were all important and relevant resources required, and health outcome costs for each alternative identified, measured in appropriate units and valued credibly? Yes No Can't Tell

*CONSIDER:
Identified?*

- *remember the perspective being taken*
- *HINT: measured accurately?*
- *appropriate units may be hours of nursing time, number of physician visits, years-of-life gained etc.*
- *HINT: valued credibly?*
- *are the values realistic*
- *how have they been derived*
- *have opportunity costs been considered*

6. Were costs and consequences adjusted for different times at which they occurred (discounting)? Yes No Can't Tell

7. What were the results of the evaluation? Yes No Can't Tell

CONSIDER:

- *what is the bottom line*
- *what units were used (e.g. cost/life year gained, cost/QALY, net benefit)*

8. Was an incremental analysis of the consequences and cost of alternatives performed? Yes No Can't Tell

9. Was an adequate sensitivity analysis performed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>if all the main areas of uncertainty were considered by changing the estimate of the variable and</i> <i>looking at how this would change the result of the economic evaluation</i> 	
<p>Section C: Will the results help in purchasing for local people?</p>	
10. Is the programme likely to be equally effective in your context or setting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
<p><i>CONSIDER:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>if the patients covered could be sufficiently different to your population to cause concern</i> <i>If your local setting is likely to differ much</i> 	
11. Are the costs translatable to your setting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell
12. Is it worth doing in your setting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Can't Tell

<p>APPRAISAL SUMMARY: <i>List key points from your critical appraisal that need to be considered when assessing the validity of the results and their usefulness in decision-making.</i></p>		
Positive/Methodologically sound	Negative/Relatively poor methodology	Unknowns

Referencing recommendation:

CASP recommends using the Harvard style referencing, which is an author/date method. Sources are cited within the body of your assignment by giving the name of the author(s) followed by the date of publication. All other details about the publication are given in the list of references or bibliography at the end.

Example:

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (2024). CASP (insert name of checklist i.e. economic evaluation Checklist.) [online] Available at: insert URL. Accessed: insert date accessed.

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