

CALDAR Summer Institute 2017

An Introduction to Economic Evaluation in Substance Use Disorders

Presenters: Bruce Schackman, PhD and Sean Murphy, PhD

Course Description:

The course will provide an introduction to economic evaluation methods used to evaluate health care interventions, with a focus on cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) of interventions for substance use disorders. The course will introduce students to concepts relevant to measurement of costs, health utilities, and quality adjusted life years (QALYs) and their use in CEA. Student will gain a basic understanding of how CEA simulation models and clinical studies are developed, analyzed and interpreted, giving them skills to understand the literature and to consider how economic evaluation could be applied to their own research.

Course Program: 4 Hours

Introduction & Motivation – 30 Min

Discuss the relevance of economic evaluation of interventions for substance use disorders and introduce resources available from the NIDA-funded Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorders, HCV, and HIV (CHERISH).

Costing Methods and Practice – 1 hour

Provide an overview of what is a “cost” versus a “charge” versus a “payment,” what costs to include in an economic evaluation, how to measure or estimate costs, and how to address measurement uncertainty. Examples will be drawn from recent studies of HIV and HCV testing and care linkage in substance use treatment settings.

Break/Q&A – 15 minutes

Introduction of Health Utilities and QALYs – 1 hour

Provide an overview of quality of life measures, differences between directly assessed and community-derived measures, the relationship between quality of life and health utility, and why we use QALYs in CEA. Examples will be drawn from recent studies of quality of life in opioids use disorder.

Break/Q&A – 15 minutes

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis – 1 hour

Provide an overview of CEA methods and study designs, basic simulation model building, and model inputs and interpretation, with examples drawn from CEAs of health interventions in substance users.