Journal Club/Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS


The author explains how we all make health valuations in some way. This valuation has to be understood in the context in which it was calculated and for what purpose. Programmed budgeting and marginal analysis (PBMA), cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), cost-benefit analysis (CBA), QALYs, and health-related quality of life (HRQL) are all explained in language that I could understand and appreciate. Illustrations help to make this difficult subject more transparent.

One quote I particularly treasured was: ‘...while health valuation is unavoidable, it cannot be objective; the question is not how can we make it more transparent, but how can we make it more useful to the interested health professional.’

Every time you make a decision about using this medication instead of that, or promoting this measure is the best?...'while health valuation is unavoidable, it cannot be objective; the question is not how can we make it more transparent, but how can we make it more useful to the interested health professional.'

What kind of services do young people want? Do they exist? How can providers improve their provision for young people? This short book provides some of the answers.

The authors tried surveying 297 trusts – only 70 responses could be used and nine of those could be discarded. Many of which will be familiar to readers working in sexual health with young people – the need for good relationships, for not judging the young, for being welcoming and accessible and, particularly, for maintaining confidentiality. The main conclusion I drew from this study is that we all need to involve the young people more fully at all stages right from design to the final evaluation. This participation is hampered by the short-term nature of much of the funding available for these projects.

Get Real: Providing Dedicated Sexual Health Services for Young People. D Barna, C McKeown and P Woodhead. See the Children, c/o Plymouth Distributors Ltd, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PY, UK [Tel: +44 (0) 1752 203201. E-mail: orders@plymouth.com], 2002. ISBN: 1-84187-065-3. Cost: £5.00 plus P+P. Pages: 32 (paperback).

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