K3. Keynote Lecture

The role of economic evaluation for the allocation of healthcare resources

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Professor Karen Kuntz is a professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota. She has published widely in the area of decision-analytic modelling and cost-effectiveness of prevention, testing, and treatment of chronic diseases. She is the principal investigator of one of the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) grants funded by the National Cancer Institute to evaluate the national trends in colorectal cancer incidence and mortality. She recently conducted a decision analysis to inform the US Preventive Services Task Force updated guidelines for colorectal cancer screening. Professor Kuntz is a past president of the Society for Medical Decision Making, and earned her doctorate in biostatistics from the Harvard School of Public Health.

In an environment of escalating health care costs, relying on evidence of quality, safety, and efficacy of an intervention may not be sufficient for determining coverage decisions. Economic evaluations provide a framework for maximising the amount of health that can be achieved within of a population when health care resources are limited, thus providing a measure of "value for money" associated with health care interventions. Economic evaluations, which include cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses, provide an explicit, quantitative, and systematic approach to synthesising information on the clinical benefits of an intervention or programme, the associated risks and harms, and the economic costs.

In this presentation I will provide an overview of the methods used to conduct economic evaluations, including the role of decision models. Decision models are used to project out incorporate data from multiple sources, evaluate all relevant comparators, and project intermediate outcome measures used in clinical studies to long-term outcomes. I will also discuss the role and implications of the perspective of the analysis (e.g., government, societal) and how results may differ by perspective, as well as the methods for evaluating and presenting parameter uncertainty. An example of evaluating the new screening tests for colorectal cancer will be presented.