Programme in costing, resource use measurement and outcome valuation for use in multi-sectoral national and international health economic evaluations

(Pharmacoeconomic) evaluations for mental health related services: the PECUNIA project

J. Simon1, A. Konnopka2, V. Brodzsky3, S. Evers4, L. Hakkaart-van Roijen5, P. Serrano-Pérez6, L. Salvador-Carulla7, A.-L. Park8, W. Hollingworth9

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Background

Mental health disorders affect large proportions of the general public resulting in major cost consequences within the health care sector (14% of health expenditure) and beyond. Currently health economic evaluations lack harmonized costing and outcome tools across economic sectors and countries (Fig. 1).

Objectives

• To develop methods and tools for harmonised valuation of the resource consequences of health interventions across multiple sectors, countries and persons (Fig. 2)
• Sustainable resource utilisation
• Improved comparability of diverse EU healthcare systems
• Reduced inefficiencies and unnecessary variations in health expenditure
• Transferable health outcome measures across countries

Methods

• Harmonised Identification (HA1), Definition (HA2), Measurement (HA3) and Valuation (HA4) of service and other resource costs in multiple sectors (WP1, 2, 3, 4) (Fig. 3).
• Initial survey of all mental health related services in 6 European countries (AT, DE, ES, HU, NL, UK).
• Followed by harmonised definition and cost valuation of identified service and other resource items.
• Development of matching self-reported resource use measurement (RUM) questionnaire.

Results

• Many taxonomical and conceptual discrepancies hinder comparability in economic evaluations across countries and sectors.
• Development of a new harmonized multi-sectoral costing concept which forms the basis of further international resource, cost measurement and reference unit cost development (PECUNIA care atom, Fig. 4)
• Multiple standardized and harmonized tools such as DESDE PECUNIA coding system, PECUNIA RUM, PECUNIA Unit Costing Templates, European PECUNIA Unit Cost Compendium, PECUNIA PROM Compendium.

Conclusions

The PECUNIA tools lead to better understanding of the variations in costs and outcomes of mental health services/interventions within and across countries, and improve the feasibility, quality, comparability and transferability of (pharmacoeconomic) evaluations and HTAs in Europe.

1 Medical University of Vienna, Department of Health Economics, Wien, Austria, 2 University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Zentrum für Psychosoziale Medizin, Hamburg, Germany, 3 Corvinus University of Budapest, Department of Health Economics, Budapest, Hungary, 4 Maastricht University, Department of Health Services Research, Maastricht, Netherlands, 5 Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 6 Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Psychiatry, Barcelona, Spain, 7 Research School of Population Health, ANU College of Health and Medicine, Australian National University, Centre for Mental Health Research, Sydney, ACT, Australia, 8 London School of Economics (LSE), Department of Health Policy, London, UK, 9 Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, Department of Population Health Sciences, Bristol, UK

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