

## CASP Checklist: 12 questions to help you make sense of an **Economic Evaluation**

**How to use this appraisal tool:** Three broad issues need to be considered when appraising an economic evaluation study:

-  Is the economic evaluation valid? (Section A)
-  How were consequences and costs assessed and compared? (Section B)
-  Will the results help in purchasing for local people? (Section C)

The 12 questions on the following pages are designed to help you think about these issues systematically. The first two questions are screening questions and can be answered quickly. If the answer to both is “yes”, it is worth proceeding with the remaining questions. There is some degree of overlap between the questions, you are asked to record a “yes”, “no” or “can’t tell” to most of the questions. A number of italicised prompts are given after each question. These are designed to remind you why the question is important. Record your reasons for your answers in the spaces provided.

**About:** These checklists were designed to be used as educational pedagogic tools, as part of a workshop setting, therefore we do not suggest a scoring system. The core CASP checklists (randomised controlled trial & systematic review) were based on JAMA 'Users' guides to the medical literature 1994 (adapted from Guyatt GH, Sackett DL, and Cook DJ), and piloted with health care practitioners.

For each new checklist, a group of experts were assembled to develop and pilot the checklist and the workshop format with which it would be used. Over the years overall adjustments have been made to the format, but a recent survey of checklist users reiterated that the basic format continues to be useful and appropriate.

**Referencing:** we recommend using the Harvard style citation, i.e.: *Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (2018). CASP (insert name of checklist i.e. Economic Evaluation) Checklist. [online] Available at: URL. Accessed: Date Accessed.*

©CASP this work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution – Non-Commercial-Share A like. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/> [www.casp-uk.net](http://www.casp-uk.net)

Section A: Is the economic evaluation valid?

1. Was a well-defined question posed?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: Is it clear what the authors are trying to achieve

- what is the perspective
- How many options are compared
- are both costs and consequences considered
- what is the time horizon

Comments:

2. Was a comprehensive description of the competing alternatives given?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: is there a clear decision tree (or similar given):

- can you tell who did what, to whom, where and how often

Comments:

Is it worth continuing?

3. Does the paper provide evidence that the programme would be effective? (i.e. would the programme do more good than harm?)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: Consider:

- 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)

Comments:

4. Were the effects of the intervention identified, measured and valued appropriately?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: 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 QALYS) or monetary equivalents of the benefit gained (e.g. \$)

Comments:

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT: 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

Comments:

6. Were costs and consequences adjusted for different times at which they occurred (discounting)?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

7. What were the results of the evaluation?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Comments:

8. Was an incremental analysis of the consequences and cost of alternatives performed?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

9. Was an adequate sensitivity analysis performed?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

- HINT: Consider
- if all the main areas of uncertainty were considered by changing the estimate of the variable *and*
  - looking at how this would change the result of the economic evaluation

Comments:

Section C: Will the results help in purchasing for local people?

10. Is the programme likely to be equally effective in your context or setting?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

- HINT: Consider whether
- the patients covered by the review could be sufficiently different to your population to cause concern
  - your local setting is likely to differ much from that of the review

Comments:

11. Are the costs translatable to your setting?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

12. Is it worth doing in your setting?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't Tell	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: