“Update of the Dutch manual for costing studies in health care”

Dr. Leona Hakkaart-van Roijen
Associate professor Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment, institute for Medical Technology Assessment (iMTA), Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL, Member of the Board of the Dutch Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care, Member of the Board of Managers of the iMTA, EUR, Head of the Mental Health section at the iMTA, EUR

17 February 2016/4-5.15pm

Medical University of Vienna, Van Swieten Saal, Van-Swieten-Gasse 1a, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Summary:
Objectives. Dutch health economic guidelines include a costing manual, which describes preferred research methodology for costing studies and reference prices to ensure high quality studies and comparability between study outcomes. The Dutch health economic guidelines have been updated and this paper describes the most important revisions of the costing manual compared to the previous version.
Methods. An online survey was sent out to potential users of the costing manual to identify additional aspects for improvement. The costing manual was aligned with contemporary health economic guidelines. All methodology sections and parameter values needed for costing studies, particularly reference prices, were updated. An expert panel of health economists was consulted several times during the review process. The revised manual was reviewed by two member of the expert panel and by reviewers of the Dutch health care institute.
Results. The majority of survey respondents was satisfied with the costing previous manual. Respondents asked for updated reference prices and improved methodological descriptions. Three categories of costs were distinguished: 1) costs within the health care sector; 2) patient and family costs; and 3) costs in other sectors. Methodological descriptions and reference prices were updated to reflect 2014 values. Upon request of survey respondents, reference prices for diagnostic procedures and nurse practitioners were included in the updated costing manual.
Conclusions. The update further increased feasibility of the costing manual to improve quality and comparability of costing studies in economic evaluations in health care.