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What is cost-minimisation analysis?

- Achieving '**value for money**' implies either a desire to achieve a predetermined objective at **least cost** or a desire to **maximise the benefit** to the population of patients served from a limited amount of resources. Cost-minimisation analysis relates to the first of these objectives.
- Assumptions of clinical equivalence in cost-minimisation analysis should only be made if claims of equivalence can be supported by clinical evidence; that is, where **measured outcomes have been shown to be equivalent**; where this is not possible, a cost-minimisation analysis should not be conducted.
- What steps can be taken to improve the quality and appropriateness of cost-minimisation analyses and **in what circumstances is it appropriate to use cost-minimisation analysis** as a methodology in the economic evaluation of healthcare technologies?
- **To what extent** should healthcare professionals **rely on cost-minimisation analyses** to inform their decision-making?
- How do we measure 'clinical equivalence' and what are the implications of potential sources of **misinterpretation of clinical data** within the framework of cost-minimisation analysis?
- How can we **enhance the reputation and value of cost-minimisation analysis** as a method of health economic analysis to inform healthcare decision-making?

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