

# Information Resources in Health Economics

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## **Health Care Financing And Expenditure (UK)**

### ***(1) Statistical series***

#### ***Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England***

1997 edition. London: Stationery Office, 1998.

Annual abstract of health service statistics. Gives most recent figures available and previous 10 and 20 year-points if available. Information is collated from returns to Department of Health from regions, District Health Authorities, former Family Health Service Authorities, Local Authorities and other authorities. Contains a useful list of other statistical sources.

Financial information given at a national level on NHS revenue and expenditure, and expenditure on local authority personal social services.

#### ***OHE Compendium of Health Statistics***

10th Ed. 1997. London: Office Of Health Economics, 1997.

Collects statistics from various official UK sources: the only source that does this in detail.

UK health care expenditure and financing: as a percentage of GNP, expenditure by age group (per person) and pay and prices indices. Statistics on private health care subscribers.

Hospital services: expenditure, revenue/capital, cash limits, bed details. Estimated costs of finished consultant episodes by leading cause, average cost per in-patient day by speciality.

Family Health Services: cost of FHS and proportion spent on general medical, general dental and general ophthalmic services giving number of staff and practices, GP consultations, prescriptions or charges, numbers. Cost of pharmaceutical services: estimated GP medical consultation cost, estimated real cost of diseases, dental charges, ophthalmic service costs. Estimated total cost of diseases to the UK (Table 4.46) and pharmaceutical costs of diseases

#### ***Health Service Financial Database 1997***

London: CIPFA, 1997.

Financial information for all Health Authorities and NHS Trusts in England and Wales. For information contact Amanda Griffin tel: 0181 667 1144.

Includes:

Specialty costs per inpatient day, inpatient episode, outpatient attendance

Length of stay

Trust annual accounts and Trust financial returns

Health Authority annual accounts and financial returns

### ***Parliamentary debates (Hansard)***

Written and oral parliamentary questions and parliamentary debates can provide interesting statistics.

Available free on the WWW at: <http://www.parliament.uk/>  
House of Commons Hansard - from October 1996  
House of Lords Hansard - from June 1996

### **(2) Annual reports**

*The Government's expenditure plans 1998-99 to 2000-2001: Department of Health: departmental report.* (Cm 3901-3920 inc. Cm 3781) London: Stationery Office, 1998.

*NHS (England) summarised accounts 1996-97* (HC 923) London: Stationery Office, 1998.

Health Committee reports. Several reports appear each year and are published by the Stationery Office (tel: 0171 873 0011).

## **Comparative Health Care**

### ***OECD Health Data 1960/1995: 1998 edition***

Paris: OECD Publications service, 1998.

Information (fax: +33 1 49 10 42 99) <http://www.oecd.org/els/health/software98.htm>

Diskette-based database of comparative data for 29 countries in the OECD.

Comparative data on:

- health status
- mortality and morbidity
- inputs and throughputs of the healthcare system
- trades in medical goods and services
- national expenditure on health
- average length of stay and discharge rate
- surgical and medical procedures
- medical service fees
- demographic statistics
- monetary conversion rates

### ***World Health Organisation (WHO)***

The WHO has published a report series on health economics and developing countries, some of which are available on the WWW full text (<http://www.who.int/>)

## **Costs Of Care**

### **Hospital episode statistics (1987 -)**

Published by the Department of Health

Annual publication, introduced in April 1987 to provide information similar to that formerly provided in Hospital Inpatient Enquiry (HIPE) and Mental Health Enquiry. Covers all specialties and includes private patients treated in NHS hospitals. The latest data is 1994/95 published in 1996, in paper and on CD-ROM. 1995/96 data is due in 1999.

Data is for consultant episodes and for financial years. Data is collected in Patient Administration Systems and forwarded to the OPCS (now ONS). Initially there were a lot of quality and production problems, but these are gradually improving. 1989/90 data was published in June 1993. Later years have been published in a more timely fashion.

Presents:

- By region - statistics on admissions, day cases, deaths, bed days, or length of stay by diagnosis.
- By age and region - the number of episodes, admissions, day cases, deaths, bed days/episodes, length of stay, population, episode rates.
- Number of admissions - by method of admission and district DHA
- Private patients - episodes, day cases, deaths, bed days by region
- Completed episodes - by region and main diagnosis
- Completed episodes - by region and waiting time and diagnosis
- Completed injury/poisoning episodes/day cases/bed days - by cause in England

### **Health Service Indicators**

Published by the Department of Health

Indicators on activity of health providers intended to facilitate district and regional comparison. Information for each indicator was given in the form of ratios. **Now discontinued.**

### **Prescription Pricing Authority**

For further information tel: 0191 232 5371 <http://www.ppa.org.uk/>

Will supply volume of prescriptions and prescribing analysis and costs on written request.

### **Scottish Health Service Costs**

Edinburgh: National Health Service in Scotland, Information and Statistics Division, Statistics for 1997-98 to be published in January 1999 (paper £50, electronic £250).

For further information tel: 0131 551 8899

Financial and related activity information for individual hospitals. Analysis of healthcare purchased, practitioner services costs and community services costs is included for each health board. Divisional costs and ambulance service costs are included for the Common services Agency, Costs of the Scottish National Breast Screening Programme are included.

Information is derived mainly from financial and statistical information prepared as part of the annual accounts cycle of the NHS in Scotland.

## **Health Resource Group National Statistics 1996-97**

For further information tel: 01962 844588.

Compiled by the National Casemix Office from 10.2 million records of all NHS inpatient episodes in England. The HRGs are cases grouped into clinically meaningful categories and represent roughly equal levels of health care resource consumption. For example HRG a28 represents epilepsy inpatient cases (aged under 65). Information is presented for HRG and for specialty. From 1997/98 every acute hospital will cost all surgical specialties using HRGs.

The HRG contains an extended range of statistical measures including:  
statistics for inpatient and daycase finished consultant episodes  
statistics for elective and non-elective admissions  
statistics for inlier and outlier finished consultant episodes

## **Acute Care 1998/99 Healthcare Resource Groups. National Statistics 1997/98.**

CHKS 1998.

Information from: CHKS Limited, 1 Arden Court, Arden Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6HN. Tel: 01789 761600

This is a commercially published collection of HRG statistics with information on 3 million patient episodes in acute hospitals. As well as the data from the HRG it augments it with some age profiles, waiting times and cost percentiles and also gives a breakdown by type of acute unit:

- length of stay
- admission and discharge profile
- quality indicator profile (deaths)
- age profile
- specialty profile
- length of stay profile
- cost per case (percentiles)

## **Fundholding 96. GP fundholding procedures. National statistics 1995/96.**

CHKS 1996.

Information from: CHKS Limited, 1 Arden Court, Arden Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6HN. Tel: 01789 761600

Detailed activity for top 100 GP fundholder procedures on:

- length of stay
- admission and discharge profile
- quality indicator profile (deaths)
- age profile
- elective wait profile
- specialty profile
- length of stay profile
- cost per case (percentiles)

## **Health Service Cost Index**

(HCHS specific price inflation). Leeds: NHS Executive.

For further information tel: 0113 254 5363

Inflation/price index for range of health service items with base month of March 1993. Published monthly.

**Netten A & Dennett J. *Unit costs of health and social care 1997***

Canterbury: Personal Social Services Research Unit, 1997 Tel: 01227 823644.  
<http://snipe.ukc.ac.uk/PSSRU/PSSRU.html>

Information about the costs of services for the elderly, those with mental illness, people with learning disabilities and others.

**Stevens A & Raftery J (eds.) *Healthcare needs assessment: the epidemiologically based needs assessment reviews.***

Oxford: Radcliffe Medical Press, 1994.

Second series published 1997.

Reviews 20 diseases, interventions or services selected for their importance to purchasers of health care. Importance is defined in terms of burden of disease (mortality, morbidity and cost).

## **Databases**

### **(1) *Economic Evaluations***

#### **(a) NHS Economic Evaluation Database**

Produced by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. This database is available free on the WWW at: <http://nhscrd.york.ac.uk/welcome.html>

Contains:

- Structured abstracts of economic evaluations 1994 onwards.
- Structured abstracts of items from the Department of Health cost-effectiveness register
- Bibliographic details of cost studies, methodology papers and reviews of economic studies.

#### **(b) Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED)**

Produced by Office of Health Economics and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA). Information about this CD-ROM is given at <http://www.abpi.org.uk/heabpi.htm>, or contact Gerry Crosbie (Tel: 0171 930 3477 ext. 1474, Fax: 0171 744 1419, Email: [gcrosbie@abpi.org.uk](mailto:gcrosbie@abpi.org.uk)).

Contains:

- Information on health economics articles, in particular studies of cost-effectiveness (and other forms of economic evaluation), with objective analysis of key articles.

HEED now has more than 6,000 bibliographic references and 2,200 reviewed articles, and is updated monthly.

### **(c) CDC-WONDER**

Produced by the Centers for Diseases Control. Available free on the WWW at:  
<http://wonder.cdc.gov/>

Provides access to a variety of CDC reports, guidelines and numeric and text-based data sets. The database of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness studies seems to have a date coverage of 1979-1995.

## **(2) Selected General Databases**

### **(a) MEDLINE**

Available free over the Internet at:  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/freemedl.html>

Search strategies for MEDLINE to locate papers with some coverage of economic issues can be found in CRD report 6: *Making cost-effectiveness information accessible: the NHS Economic Evaluation Database Project. CRD guidance for reporting critical summaries of economic evaluations*. York: NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, 1996. (Tel: 01904 433648).

The search strategies are very broad, and for more specific searches close reading of the scope notes of MESH is advised.

### **(b) EMBASE**

In 1997 Elsevier extended and restructured the pharmacoeconomics terminology, and introduced new links to capture the concepts of pharmacoeconomics and disease management.

### **(c) Conference proceedings**

Various databases of conference proceedings are available, including:

*Directory of Published Proceedings* (Dialog - <http://www.dialog.com/>)

*Inside Conferences* (Dialog - <http://www.dialog.com/>)

*Conference Papers Index* (Dialog - <http://www.dialog.com/>)

*Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings* (BIDS - <http://www.bids.ac.uk/>)

### **(d) Healthstar**

Available free over the Internet at:  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/freemedl.html>

Focuses on the clinical and non-clinical aspects of health care delivery. It cites the literature on health care administration, economics, planning and policy as well as health services research, clinical practice guidelines and health care technology assessment.

## **Journals**

A useful listing of key journals is at the web site maintained for the University of York, MSc in Health Economics, available free at:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/~econ21/journal.htm>

Information on specific journals is also available:

Health Economics

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/he.htm>

Journal of Health Economics

<http://www.elsevier.nl:80/homepage/sae/econbase/jhe/>

Pharmacoeconomics

<gopher://topgun.adis.co.nz/11/pe>

## **The World Wide Web**

### ***(1) Health economics departments, research units and organisations***

University of York, MSc in Health Economics

- Has links to many other WWW sites.

<http://www.york.ac.uk/~econ21/resource>

Centre for Health Economics, York

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che>

Health Economics Research Group (Brunel)

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/depts/herg/>

Health Economics Research Unit (Aberdeen)

[http://www.abdn.ac.uk/public\\_health/heru/index.html](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/public_health/heru/index.html)

International Health Economics Association

<http://www.healtheconomics.org/>

### ***(2) Statistics resources***

Department of Health: statistics

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/public/stats1.htm>

Department of Health: statistics - forthcoming statistical publications

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/public/fspub.htm>

Health Statistics Sources, by Michael L Newman 1996

- Offers selected print and online bibliographies and searching tips for users seeking health-related statistical information. This source has a US focus.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/stats/contents.html>

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), USA

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/nchshome.htm>

Office of National Statistics, UK

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

World Health Organisation (WHO)

<http://www.who.int/>

WHOSIS (WHO Statistical Information System)

- A guide to health and health-related statistical information from the WHO

<http://www.who.int/whosis/whosis.htm>

### **(3) *Economics resources***

#### **(a) Health economics resources**

HealthEconomics.Com

- Guide to health economics, medical and pharmacy resources on the WWW. A wide range of useful links to associations, databases, organisations, government resources, libraries and questionnaires and performance assessment information. Rather US focused.

<http://www.healtheconomics.com/>

University of York, MSc in Health Economics web pages

<http://www.york.ac.uk/res/herc/resource>

#### **(b) General economics resources**

These resources are not all focused on health economics, but may well contain material of interest to health economists

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), USA  
<http://www.ahcpr.gov/>

BibEc

- Printed working papers in economics  
<http://netec.mcc.ac.uk/BibEc.html>

Economics Working Paper Archive  
<http://econwpa.wustl.edu:80/months/hew>

Econbase

- Abstracts of 36 economics, econometrics and finance journals  
<http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/econbase>

IDEAS (Internet Documents in Economics Access Service)

- Directory of economics working papers, including WoPEc, BibEc and EconWPA and many other archives in one location.  
<http://ideas.uqam.ca/>

WebEc

- WWW resources in Economics  
<http://netec.mcc.ac.uk/WebEc.html>

#### **(4) General resources**

Social Science Internet Gateway (SOSIG)  
<http://www.sosig.ac.uk>

OMNI

- The UK's gateway to high quality biomedical resources on the Internet  
<http://www.omni.ac.uk>

### **Organisations - contact details**

#### **Centre for Health Economics (CHE)**

University of York, York YO10 5DD. Tel: 01904 433718/433666; Fax: 01904 433644; email: [chepub@york.ac.uk](mailto:chepub@york.ac.uk)  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che>

#### **Health Economics Research Centre (HERC)**

University of Oxford, Institute of Health Sciences, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LF  
Tel: 01865 226992; Fax: 01865 226842

<http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/herc/>

**Health Economics Research Unit (HERU)**

University of Aberdeen, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD

Tel: 01224 681818; Fax: 01224 662994

[http://www.abdn.ac.uk/public\\_health/heru/index.html](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/public_health/heru/index.html)

**London Health Economics Consortium (LHEC)**

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT

Tel: 0171 580 9798; email: [lhec@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:lhec@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Office of Health Economics**

12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY. Tel: 0171 930 9203

<http://www.abpi.org.uk/links/ohe.htm>

**York Health Economics Consortium**

University of York, York YO10 5DD. Tel: 01904 433620; email: [yhec@york.ac.uk](mailto:yhec@york.ac.uk)

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/yhec/>

**Health Economists - how to find them**

Wordsworth S (ed.) *HEART: Health Economists' Activities Research and Teaching. No. 14*. Aberdeen: Health Economists' Study Group, 1998.

(Available from: Health Economics Research Unit, University Medical Buildings, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB9 2ZD. Cost £5 HESG members, £25 non-members. Also available on disk, cost £5)

Getzen T E & West D K. *Worldwide directory of health economists 1997*.

Philadelphia: International Health Economics Association, 1997.

Available free on the WWW at: <http://hpd.qhp.queensu.ca/cgi-bin/WebObjects/iHEA>

*National Research Register*. Interim update [Database on CD-ROM]. Oxford: Update Software, 1997-.

(Details available from: Sam Brown, Department of Health, NHS Executive Headquarters, Research and Development Division, Room GW59, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE).

From 31/12/98 the NRR will be available to search on the Internet at: <http://www.doh.gov.uk/nrr.htm>

*Current research in Britain: social sciences; current research in Britain: physical sciences; and current research in Britain: biological sciences.*

Published by Longman, and available in book and CD-ROM formats.

**E-mail Discussion Lists**

### Health-econometrics

List is aimed at researchers who apply econometrics and other quantitative techniques in health economics. The list is used to exchange details of meetings, papers, software and data, and to share advice on technical problems.

### Healthecon-discuss

General health economics discussion list whose membership is open to health economists and those interested in health economics worldwide.

### Health-econeval

This list will facilitate economic evaluation of health services and health care interventions; support the Cochrane Collaboration in using economic information in systematic reviews; share experience and information on cost-effectiveness; produce a regular newsletter. All are welcome.

### HESG

Closed list for members of the UK Health Economists' Study Group (owner David Parkin: david.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk).

### Finan-HC

Concerned mainly with USA health care finance and available to iHEA members and others interested in this area.

### DEA-Health

Discussion list for those interested in the application of data envelopment analysis to health care.

The following are indexes to e-mail discussion lists:

Medical Matrix	<a href="http://www.medmatrix.org/index.asp">http://www.medmatrix.org/index.asp</a>
Liszt: the mailing list directory	<a href="http://www.liszt.com/">http://www.liszt.com/</a>
Mailbase list	<a href="http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists.html">http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists.html</a>

Details of all mailbases, including how to subscribe, coverage and membership is given at <http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/>

## **Health Economics Bibliographies**

Blades CA, Culyer AJ, Wiseman J, Walker A. *The international bibliography of health economics: a comprehensive annotated guide to English language sources since 1914*. (Parts 1 and 2). Brighton: Wheatsheaf Books, 1986.

Culyer AJ, Wiseman, Walker A. *An annotated bibliography of health economics: English language sources*. London: Martin Robertson, 1977.

Elixhauser A, Halpern M, Schmier J, Luce BR. Health care CBA and CEA from 1991 to 1996: an updated bibliography. *Medical Care* 1998; 36(5): MS1-MS9.