Alternative to mental hospital treatment. II: Economic benefit-cost analysis

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Record Status
This is a critical abstract of an economic evaluation that meets the criteria for inclusion on NHS EED. Each abstract contains a brief summary of the methods, the results and conclusions followed by a detailed critical assessment on the reliability of the study and the conclusions drawn.

Health technology
Training in Community Living (TCL) for people with mental disorders.

Type of intervention
Treatment/community care.

Economic study type
Cost-benefit analysis.

Study population
Persons with mental disorders.

Setting
The study was carried out in the USA.

Dates to which data relate
It seems that price related to 1979.

Source of effectiveness data
Single study.

Study sample
It is unknown whether there is evidence that the study sample is representative of the clinical study question.

Study design
Single centre, prospective controlled trial. The duration of follow-up of the treatment cohort was 3 years.

Analysis of effectiveness
Outcomes were expressed in monetary benefits. It is unknown whether at analysis groups were shown or adjusted to be comparable in age, sex or prognostic features.

Effectiveness results
The community group were significantly less symptomatic on 7 of 13 measures; on the other 6, no significant differences were found. Patient satisfaction with life was also significantly higher for the community group.
Measure of benefits used in the economic analysis
Monetary benefits.

Direct costs
Direct costs were to the health service, patient, other agencies, and relatives and included: treatment, social service agencies, sheltered workshops, other community agencies, private medical providers, law enforcement, and maintenance costs (cash payments and in kind).

Indirect Costs
Indirect costs such as family burden, proxied by lost earnings, were also considered. It seems that price information related to 1979.

Currency
US dollars ($).

Sensitivity analysis
No sensitivity analysis was carried out.

Cost results
The community programme is cost saving from a societal viewpoint but more costly to the health service.

Synthesis of costs and benefits
Outcome and cost duration was 1 year.

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