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Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Health

Master in Philosophy of Science

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Week 8 – Measuring and valuing health: QALYs, NICE’s approach and deciding which interventions to fund

1. **QALY basics**

*What are QALYs good for?*

*How does the EQ-5D translate health states into QALYs?*

1. **Cost effectiveness analysis, and alternative approaches**

*How do policies P1 and P2 compare in terms of their cost effectiveness?*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Costs (EUR)** | **Effects (life-years gained)** |
| P1 | 100,000 | 1,200 |
| P2 | 150,000 | 1,850 |

*Why might we attach a monetary value to QALYs? What are the potential problems with this?*

1. **Possible problems with QALYs and cost-effectiveness analysis**

*Why might a naïve use of cost effectiveness lead to more inequality?*

*Why is the use of cost-effectiveness analysis based on QALYs sometimes deemed ageist? Is this a fair criticism?*

*Should QALYs play a role in triage decisions?*

1. **Next Week: Pandemics, Emergencies, and Lockdown**

*Readings:*

Lucie White, Philippe van Basshuysen, and Mathias Frisch, “When is Lockdown Justified?” (required)

Eric Winsberg, Jason Brennan, and Chris Surprenant, “How Government Leaders Violated their Epistemic Duties During the SARS-CoV-2 Crisis” (optional)