Title: EXPANDING THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RESEARCH: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR PROGRAM AND POLICY EVALUATION

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PURPOSE: This workshop introduces participants to economic evaluation methods and applications for conducting cost-effectiveness analyses (CEA) of treatment interventions for substance use disorders (SUD). The workshop will focus on synergies between clinical and economic research on SUD, as well as new and developing areas of research that will support and advance the field moving forward. Interactive exercises will promote audience engagement in working through key components to a CEA such as defining analysis perspective, selecting appropriate measures and data sources, and interpreting results for various stakeholders.

DESCRIPTION: Reducing the burden of substance use disorders (SUDs) on individuals and society requires increased access to evidence-based treatments and prevention measures. And, despite decades of research on the etiology and consequences of SUDs that support a long-term chronic disease approach to treating SUDs, the uptake and penetration of evidence-based practices supporting long-term recovery remains low. Convincing providers and other stakeholders to modify current practices requires not only clinical evidence of best practices, but also consideration for the additional costs and reallocation of existing resources that will occur as a result of these changes. Ensuring that resources are used efficiently requires consideration of both costs and effectiveness. For example, choosing only the cheapest interventions will result in foregone improvements in patient health, while relying solely on effectiveness will result in choosing some interventions that are moderately more effective but substantially more expensive, and as a result more exclusive. Recent guidance from the Second Panel on Cost-Effectiveness in Health and Medicine encourages researchers to consider multiple stakeholder perspectives, which involves determining the relevant outcome domains, specific measures for each domain, and the appropriate price weights/monetary conversion factors for each measure, which also vary by perspective. This workshop will introduce participants CEA methods and applications, and demonstrate the use of the Second Panel’s impact inventory to organize cost domains by perspective, and measures within those domains. We will review the process of selecting the most appropriate monetary conversion factors for different perspectives, and address analytic challenges associated with heterogeneity of data sources, double counting when combining and monetizing multiple outcomes, and analyzing non-normally distributed data. The workshop will be highly interactive where participants will work in groups to make key decisions in conducting a CEA, using real-world examples. Participants will gain an understanding of how CEA complements effectiveness trials and can expand the impact of this research by addressing concerns of multiple stakeholders.