

The cost and quality of mental healthcare provision and the value of service quality in the English NHS

Presenter: Prof. Rowena Jacobs

Monday 23rd September 11.15am-12.15pm
Seminar Room 515, Level 5
207 Bouverie Street, Carlton



Improving efficiency in mental health services in the English NHS is a key policy priority. Our research examines the efficiency, cost and quality of mental healthcare provision.

We assessed which dimensions of service quality are valued by service users, mental healthcare professionals and the general population, using a discrete choice experiment (DCE) to elicit the relative valuations of aspects of care quality (e.g. access, continuity, person-centred care), with one aspect being effectiveness, measured in terms of a Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) gain.

We collated routine data for all English NHS mental health providers and estimated variation in 1) costs, and 2) a composite measure of quality, which weighted the quality attributes from the DCE into a single QALY metric. We then calculated the Net Health Benefit for mental health providers as an overall measure of value of production.

Results point to variation in provider cost and quality and variation in prioritisation across stakeholder groups in the system.

Rowena Jacobs is Professor of Health Economics in the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York. Rowena's research interests include health policy reforms, incentives and performance measurement of mental health services. She leads various programmes of research on care quality and outcomes, contracting and payment for mental health services, and efficiency of mental healthcare provision. She has acted as an adviser to various UK government and other agencies, as well as the World Bank, WHO and OECD on health policy and performance measurement in mental health services.