

Specific forms of analysis reflect different approaches to evaluating the consequences of health interventions. Health consequences may be estimated from a single analytical (experimental or non-experimental) study, a synthesis of studies, mathematical modelling, or a combination of modelling and study information.

*Cost consequences analysis* examines costs and consequences without attempting to isolate a single consequence or aggregate consequences into a single measure

*Cost minimisation analysis (CMA)*—The consequences of compared interventions are required to be equivalent, and only relative costs are compared

*Cost effectiveness analysis (CEA)* measures consequences in natural units, such as life years gained, disability days avoided, or cases detected. In a variant of CEA, often called cost utility analysis, consequences are measured in terms of preference-based measures of health, such as quality adjusted life years or disability adjusted life years.

*Cost benefit analysis*—Consequences are valued in monetary units.

Readers should be aware that an economic evaluation might be referred to as a “cost effectiveness analysis” or “cost benefit analysis” even if it does not strictly adhere to the definitions above.

Multiple forms may also exist within a single evaluation. Different forms of analysis provide unique advantages or disadvantages for decision making. The Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) statement can be used with any form of economic evaluation.