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## The impact of health economic evaluations in Sweden.

<https://arctichealth.org/en/permalink/ahliterature266499>

Author: Emelie Heintz  
Karl Arnberg  
Lars-Åke Levin  
Jan Liliemark  
Thomas Davidson

Source: Z Evid Fortbild Qual Gesundhwes. 2014;108(7):375-82

Date: 2014

Language: English

Publication Type: Article

Keywords: Cost-Benefit Analysis - economics  
Cross-Cultural Comparison  
Decision Making, Organizational  
Delivery of Health Care - economics  
Forecasting  
Health Priorities - economics  
Health Resources - economics - trends  
Humans  
Insurance, Dental - economics - trends  
Insurance, Pharmaceutical Services - economics - trends  
National Health Programs - economics  
Reimbursement Mechanisms - economics - trends  
Sweden

Abstract: The responsibility for healthcare in Sweden is shared by the central government, county councils and municipalities. The counties and municipalities are free to make their own prioritizations within the framework of the state healthcare laws. To guide prioritization of healthcare resources in Sweden, there is consensus that cost-effectiveness constitutes one of the three principles. The objective of this paper is to describe how cost-effectiveness, and hence health economic evaluations (HEE), have a role in pricing decisions, reimbursement of pharmaceuticals as well as the overall prioritization and allocation of resources in the Swedish healthcare system. There are various organizations involved in the processes of implementing health technologies in the Swedish healthcare system, several of which consider or produce HEEs when assessing different technologies: the Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV), the county councils' group on new drug therapies (NLT), the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Council on Health Technology Assessment (SBU), regional HTA agencies and the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The only governmental agency that has official and mandatory guidelines for how to perform HEE is TLV (LFNAR 2003:2). Even though HEEs may seem to have a clear and explicit role in the decision-making processes in the Swedish healthcare system, there are various obstacles and challenges in the use and dissemination of the results.

PubMed ID: 25444295 [View in PubMed](#) 