

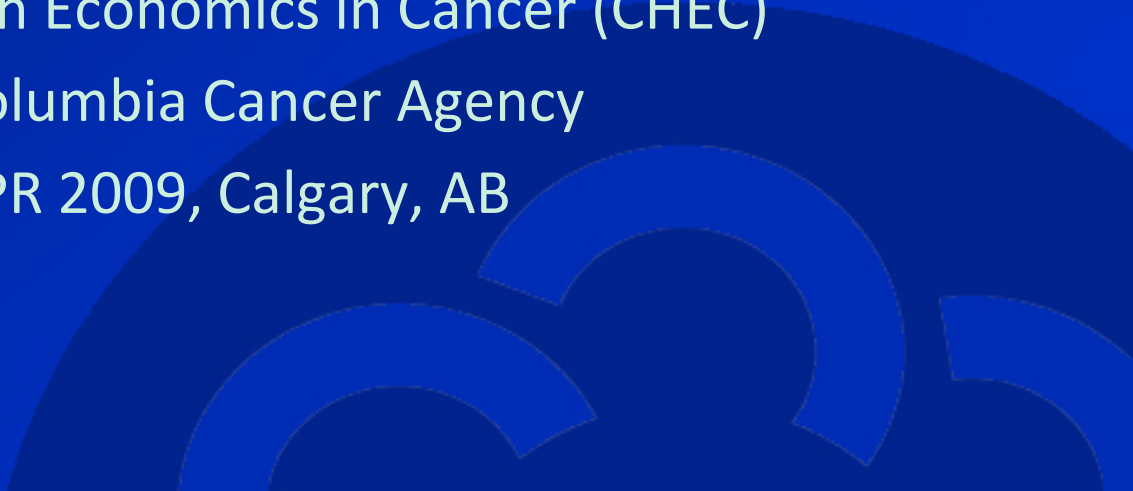
# Decision-makers' Perspectives on Priority-setting Methods

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# Today's Focus

- To compliment the previous presentation
- To present **qualitative** analyses on how Evidence-based Marginal Analysis (EBMA) was received by decision-makers at the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) between 2006-2008
- To speak to the feasibility of EBMA in practice



# Presentation Outline

- Objectives
- Methods
- Perspective Types
- Emergent Themes
- Limitations
- Summary / Discussion



# Objectives

- Gap of knowledge relating to normative values and assumptions that decision-makers may carry into decision-making processes
  - To evaluate the EBMA process from the perspective of the decision-makers who participated in the EBMA research projects
  - To explore logistics and philosophical viewpoints that may influence how EBMA is received by decision-makers at BCCA



# Methods

## Data Collection

- Purposeful sampling strategy; 20 decision-makers; hour-long, semi-structured interviewing

## Analysis

- **Constant Comparative Analysis**
  - Transcribe interviews verbatim
  - Code interview transcripts
  - Compare codes
  - Organize codes into themes and subthemes

# Perspective Types

Type	No.	Gender	Age	Years Exp. Health Care			Years Exp. Priority-setting		
				16 +	6 - 15	0 - 5	16 +	6 - 15	0 - 5
Clinical	9	5 M 4 F	35-65	7	2	-	2	2	5
Technical Managerial	8	3 M 5 F	35-65	3	5	-	-	5	3
Scientific Analytic	3	3 M 0 F	35-65	3	-	-	1	2	-
Total	20	11M/9F	35-65	13	7	-	3	9	8

# Perspective Types

## Level of Interest in EBMA Meetings Over 2 Years

Perspective Type	Interest Down	Interest Up	Interest Steady	
Clinical	2	1	6	
Scientific Analytic	1	0	2	
Technical Managerial	3	1	4	
<b>Total</b>	6 (30%)	2 (10%)	12 (60%)	<b>70% on board</b>



# Strengths: Emergent Themes

- Theme: EBMA ought to get front and center within decision-making frameworks at BCCA
  - (1) EBMA should be mandated
  - (2) Core resources should go towards acquiring evidence-based outcomes data



# Strengths: Emergent Themes

- Theme: EBMA is a vital source of information in decision-making
  - (1) It is important to look at all of the costs associated with any given intervention
  - (2) Markov modeling is one of the best models around



# Strengths: Emergent Themes

- Theme: The uptake of EBMA will improve over time

(1) Uptake will increase over time because financial systems are increasingly part of knowledge base of educated persons

(2) Access to economic data will increase with clinical information systems (CIS)



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Reallocating resources across programs is problematic from a policy perspective
  - (1) The feasibility of reallocating resources depends on who has control over the budget
  - (2) Reward and sanction mechanisms do not align with reallocation



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Reallocating resources across programs is problematic from an ethics perspective
  - (1) Reallocation is seen as a loss by the group whose resources are being taken
  - (2) The government will not support reallocation because of job-losses resulting from it



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Clinicians are not entirely convinced that quality adjusted life-year (QALY) data are useful

- (1) Clinicians not convinced that quality of life is the most valuable end-point

- (2) Clinicians not convinced that QALY data is accurate because it is based on small samples / restricted situations



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Markov models are black boxes; people don't trust black boxes

- (1) Critical of modeling techniques based on estimates

- (2) No way to know if output is correct



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Not feasible to apply the Markov modeling approach to all of the programs at BCCA

- (1) Markov modeling is time-consuming

- (2) Economic data are costly and difficult to acquire



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Health care decision-makers have limited training in economics and ethics concepts

- Decision-makers agree explicitly

- Decision-makers have mixed understandings of cost-effectiveness analysis and ethics concepts



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: Academic expertise in ethics is not necessary to grasp ethics concepts

- (1) Decision-makers develop an understanding of ethics concepts on the job

- (2) Ethics concepts are commonsensical



# Challenges: Emergent Themes

- Theme: In depth economic training not necessary for decision-makers to do their job
  - (1) Practical experience counts
  - (2) Decision-makers learn economics on the job



# Limitations

- Decision-makers not a homogeneous group, results not generalizable
- Topics explored from one question to another were vast
- Questions not entirely relevant to all of the decision-makers who took part in the study



# Summary

- EBMA well-received by decision-makers
- The uptake of EBMA is challenged by logistical/political & philosophical factors relating to resource allocation, QALYs, Markov models, and education and training
- Education and training in economics and ethics concepts are advocated



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