

EuroQol Group Valuation Research in perspective

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Essential elements of instrument design

- Index measures of health status (health-related quality of life) are generally based on two related components
 - A descriptive classification that defines a finite number of health states
 - A corresponding scoring system that assigns weights/values/utilities to health states
- For compact descriptive classifications it can be feasible to directly collect values for all states
- However more complex descriptive systems present a significant challenge.

Central issues in the design of valuation studies

- This typically involves a two-stage strategy
 - obtain direct values for a subset of health states
 - use these data to model values for all (observed and unobserved states)
- Valuation study design inevitably represent a compromise (balance) between practicalities and methodological requirements
- This was the situation that faced the York Measurement and Valuation of Health (MVH) project in 1993 when designing a survey to establish social preferences for EQ-5D health states

MVH design – lessons learned

- Preference elicitation methods
 - Standard Gamble (SG), **Time Trade-Off (TTO)**, Magnitude Estimation, Paired Comparisons, **Graphical Category Rating (VAS)**, **Ranking**
- Mode of administration
 - Interviewer **with**/without props
- Size / choice of health state subset
 - Subset of 45/243 states representing full range
- Dead and states worse than dead
 - Amend "immediate death" => dead
 - Revise TTO procedure
- Oversampling
 - Decrease the number of respondents
 - Increase number of directly valued health states
- Standardise subsets of directly valued states



EQ-5D classification systems

- 5 dimensions
 - mobility / self-care / usual activities / pain & discomfort / anxiety & depression
- 3 levels of response
 - No problem / some problem / extreme problem
- EQ-5D-3L defines 243 health states
- Expanding number of response categories to 5 increases number of states => 3,125

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Valuing the EQ-5D-5L classification : 3 challenges

- Derive a more efficient study design
 - Discrete choice methods
- Develop computer-assisted interview procedures to capture preferences
- Revise TTO protocol to minimise problems with states worse than dead

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