

## INTRODUCTION

The Brazilian Private Healthcare System, regulated by the Agência Nacional de Saúde Suplementar (ANS), covers about a quarter of the country population, with over 900 active private health insurance operators (PHIO). Considering the large number of players, it is likely that healthcare costs vary considerably, and a defined guideline for the cost information sources choice in health technology assessments by the ANS is warranted.

## OBJECTIVE

We aimed to review submissions to ANS for incorporation of medicines and immunobiologicals, evaluating the sources for hospital costs used in such submissions.

## METHODS

We included a random sample of 32 HTA submission dossiers from the last 3 years available on the ANS website. We evaluated what kind of data were used to estimate admission-related costs, including the ones related to management of adverse events.

## RESULTS

Cost Data Source	Methodology & Limitations
Expert Opinion & Codebooks	Items elicited by experts; costs estimated via codebooks (e.g., CBHPM). Note/Limitation: Suggested values, not actual billing information.
Actually Measured Costs	Disease-specific costs via ANS database processing or published papers. Note/Limitation: Uses actual billing info (gold standard in this context).
UNIDAS Annual Publication	General admissions data covering ~10% of Brazilian PHIO. Note/Limitation: No stratification by disease or ICD codes.
Public Sector Data	Data gathered from the public healthcare sector. Note/Limitation: Incorrect setting for the evaluation.

Table 1: Methodological characteristics and limitations of cost data sources across submissions.

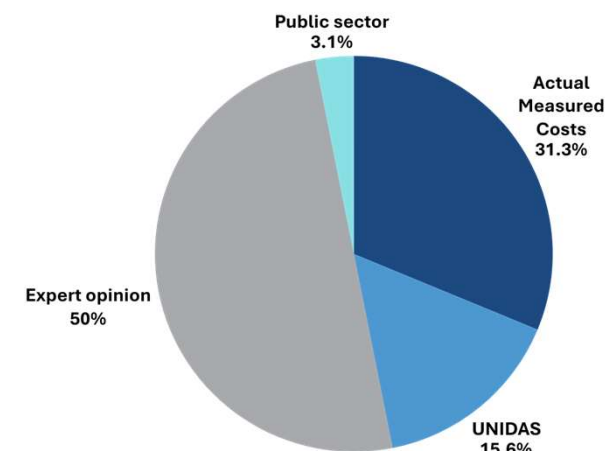


Figure 1: Distribution of cost data sources used in the submissions evaluated (N=32).

## CONCLUSIONS

Expert opinion is the most common source for admission costs estimation in the Brazilian Private Healthcare System perspective, even though ANS have a centralized database that consolidates standardized data for hospital procedures from the PHIO. The use of more accurate data would qualify the process.

