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COST UTILITY ANALYSIS OR COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR THE ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS?

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Nutrition intervention: a definition

Nutrition interventions are defined as purposefully planned actions intended to positively change a nutrition-related behaviour, environmental condition, or aspect of health status for an individual, target group or the community at large

(ADA, international Dietetics and Nutrition Terminology Reference manual; 2011)





Challenges in the economic evaluation of nutrition interventions

- Health and non-health consequences
- More difficult to ascertain causal effects
- Interlinked cost and consequences between different public sectors and the economy at large
- Higher relevance of equity effects
- Require lifestyle change





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Classification of nutrition interventions

		Who is the main target of the intervention?		
		Individual based	Population based	
Who is responsible for implementation and funding of the intervention?	Health-care sector	Individual counseling on diet and nutrition, and lifestyle behaviors Prescription of medical foods Management of moderate and severe acute malnutrition	Media campaigns on healthy diet and nutrition Worksite, school or community based programmes on diet, nutrition and lifestyle behavior (promoted and funded by the healthcare sector)	
	Multiple public sectors / economy at large	Quadrant III Special diets, or dietary advice, funded by individuals or non-health agencies Food banks and food stamps	Controls on advertising Reformulation of foods and beverages Fiscal policies (taxes and subsidies)	

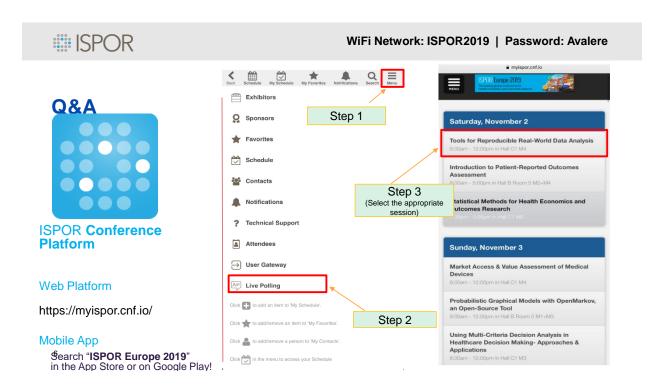
Increasing body of evidence on the costeffectiveness of nutrition interventions but lack of consistency in analytical methods and assumptions (Cobiac, 2013)

CEA widely used to evaluate clinical interventions

Whether CEA is suitable to evaluate nutrition intervention still debatable







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Poll: Which of these approaches is usually more appropriate for the economic evaluation of nutrition interventions?