

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

Carlo Federici

CERGAS , SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milano
Email: Carlo.federici@unibocconi.it

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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)



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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

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	Quadrant I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual counseling on diet and nutrition, and lifestyle behaviors - Prescription of medical foods - Management of moderate and severe acute malnutrition - ... 	Quadrant II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special diets, or dietary advice, funded by individuals or non-health agencies - Food banks and food stamps - ... 	Quadrant IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Controls on advertising - Reformulation of foods and beverages - Fiscal policies (taxes and subsidies) - ...

Increasing body of evidence on the cost-effectiveness 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?