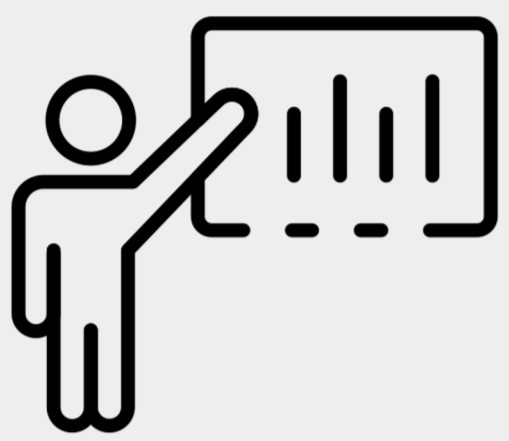


Tools for the critical appraisal of health economic analyses: a scoping review

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BACKGROUND:

The Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) is the most widely used tool for evaluating the quality of AES reporting. However, there is no consensus on the ideal tool for evaluating the quality of the evidence obtained from these studies.



OBJECTIVE:

To identify and compare available tools for the quality evaluation of health economic analysis (HEA).



METHODS:

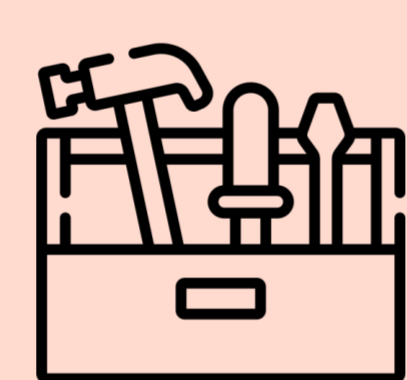
We conducted a scoping review to identify tools for the critical appraisal of full HEA, including cost-effectiveness, cost-utility and cost-benefit analysis. We searched PubMed, Embase, and Google Scholar, in January 2023, using terms such as "economic evaluation" and "critical appraisal". Tool characteristics, questions and/or recommendations for the evaluation of HEA were extracted using standardized forms. Each statement was categorized into pre-specified domains based on the topics they addressed. The review protocol is available online (doi 10.17605/OSF.IO/6R3CG).



RESULTS:



2120 references retrieved



20 tools included



5 tools were targeted to a specific context

- Newborn screening
- Surgical techniques in lumbar spinal fusion
- Paediatric diseases
- Plastic surgery
- Pharmaceutical products



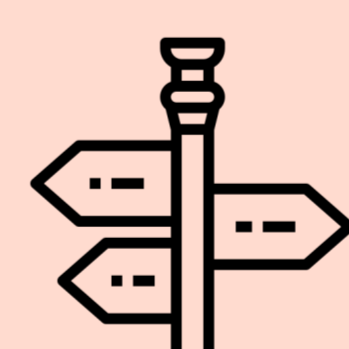
All checklists ranging 7-80 items



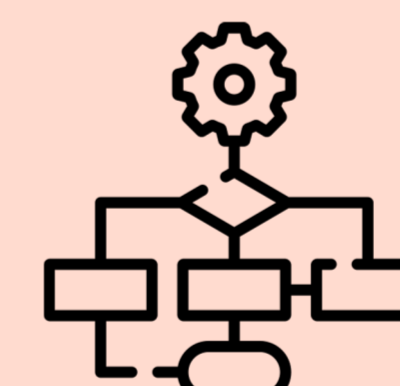
618 items extracted for analysis



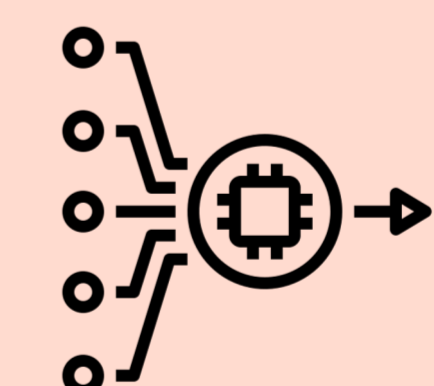
18 tools designed for any type of HEA



15 tools did not provide clear guidance



Quality of the modelling parameters and reporting were the most common aspects



CONCLUSIONS:

There is an important variability between the tools in terms of structure and components. Additionally, we observed a lack of guidance of how to correctly use most of them and a lack of consensus on their use overall. Although they all aimed to assess methodological quality, the questions included often only covered quality of reporting, not allowing for a methodological assessment that incorporates the complexity of HEA. The results of this scoping review are being used in the development of a new tool for the assessment of the methodological quality of HEA.

FUNDING:

This research was selected in the Conexão Harpia 2022 grant and received a financial donation from the company Produtos Roche Químicos e Farmacêuticos S.A. Some authors have CNPq and CAPES funding.