

Book Review

HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS MADE EASY BY DANIEL JACKSON.

ISBN: 1904842941 Scion Publishing, First Edition, 29th February 2012. RRP: £16.50



This is a clearly written and accessible introduction to health economics. With all the key concepts worked through in just over a 100 pages. In the preface, the author indicated that the book is designed for healthcare professionals and managers who need a basic understanding of the world of health economics. The book introduces the key concepts and definitions upon which health economics is based and upon which many of the decisions which effect clinical practice in Northern Ireland are made, explaining for example; cost effectiveness, health related quality of life and the much used quality adjusted life year or QALY.

This book should prove useful to all those responsible for planning and delivering health service. It is a quick read but also a useful reference for the desk. Tools such as health technology assessments, as used by NICE and the Scottish Medicine Consortium, are playing an increasing part in determining the treatment options available to our patients, yet we have very limited resource and expertise in health economics within Northern Ireland's healthcare system. For this reason I would commend this book as a means by which people working in our system can better understand both the impact of their own practice on our health economy and also appreciate the methods that are being adopted to determine clinical practice at a regional and super-regional level.

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