

Evidence Synthesis in Health Economics and Outcomes Research

Value in Health

Evidence synthesis—including systematic reviews with narrative, qualitative, and/or quantitative synthesis—is an important set of approaches to summarizing multiple sources of evidence, as well as identifying methods and evidence gaps in the field of health economics and outcomes research (HEOR). Evidence synthesis provides a strong foundation for the development of evidence-informed best practice recommendations and new methods and applications. Evidence synthesis and meta-analyses are also important ways of obtaining data inputs for economic models used to assess the value of health technologies.

Recognizing the inherent usefulness of evidence synthesis, the Editors of *Value in Health* are issuing an open Call for Papers reporting evidence synthesis on a wide array of topics in HEOR that seek to inform healthcare decision making.

Papers on evidence synthesis are welcome on any topic in HEOR that lies within the [aims and scope](#) of *Value in Health*. Studies can address any aspect of the methods and evidence used to assess the value of healthcare, but papers reporting reviews of studies containing only clinical endpoints are out of scope for this call.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The measurement and valuation of health-related quality of life
- The application of broader perspectives in economic evaluation, including the identification, measurement, and valuation of outcomes beyond health.
- Resource use, costing methods, and methods for the identification of opportunity costs
- Evidence synthesis of studies assessing the value of interventions (eg, drugs, devices, procedures, preventive and public health strategies, and other health technologies). [Note that the *primary* focus of evidence synthesis of economic evaluations should be on the identification of the methods used and an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses. Conclusions about whether an intervention is cost-effective or not may not be appropriate where evidence is drawn from very different healthcare systems.]
- Methods for the identification of heterogeneity in treatment effects and preferences
- Methods for quantifying and addressing uncertainty in economic evaluation of healthcare.
- Approaches to the use of evidence in decision making, including the use of decision rules (eg, cost-effectiveness thresholds) and quantitative and qualitative methods for considering multiple aspects of value
- Methodological development in evidence synthesis in the context of HEOR

What we look for in evidence synthesis papers submitted to *Value in Health*:

- Evidence synthesis studies that will make a meaningful contribution to the field. Systematic review updates that do not provide new knowledge and studies that simply conclude on the absence of evidence are not within the remit of this call.
- Evidence syntheses should be conducted and reported to a high standard using relevant guidelines and reporting checklists.
- Evidence synthesis on any topic should consult and reference relevant ISPOR and other relevant guidance on good practice.
- Note that health economics topics may span both the health and economics literature, in which case it is important that this is reflected in the search engines and strategies employed.
- Evidence syntheses submitted to *Value in Health* must go beyond describing the findings. Systematic literature reviews are most informative where they critically evaluate the papers they identify and to synthesize their findings.
- Scoping reviews are welcome. These also need to be approached and reported systematically, following best practices.
- Evidence syntheses conducted with the aid of AI tools are welcome. Use of AI needs to be reported transparently, including an assessment of any limitations or bias introduced.

Submissions to this Call for Papers are welcome on a year-round basis. Final decisions regarding ultimate acceptance rest solely with the Editors. Authors should submit manuscripts through the journal's online submission system at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/valueinhealth> and be sure to classify their submissions as Systematic Literature Reviews.