Introduction to Health Economics

Module description

This module introduces key economic concepts in relation to healthcare. It promotes an understanding of the essential economic principles and their application in health. The module starts by considering the healthcare market and the cost of delivering healthcare. The module then moved on to consider the healthcare sector performance and redesign.

This module aims to:

■ Describe the main features of economics in relation to the health sector
■ Discuss the use of economic tools in the analysis of the market for healthcare
■ Assess the organisation and delivery of healthcare services from an economic perspective

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

■ demonstrate their understanding of the basic economic concepts and their application to healthcare
■ analyse the economic approach to resource allocation in the health sector
■ discuss specific features that distinguish demands and supply for health care from demand and supply for other goods and services

Syllabus

■ Terms and definitions in health economics, including scarcity, opportunity cost, efficiency and equity
■ Demand and supply in healthcare
■ Cost of delivering health services
■ Basic market models and the markets for healthcare services
■ Market failure and government
■ Allocative efficiency and priority setting in healthcare
■ Performance of the healthcare sector
■ Economic tools in the analysis of the market for healthcare
■ Economics for health sector reform
Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by pre-recorded lecturecasts, synchronous question and answer (Q&A) sessions, directed independent study, formative and summative activities and assessments. Across the programme students will undertake a variety of assessment which are aimed to evidence their learning against the learning outcomes and develop a broad range of skills. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant resources and are expected to extend and enhance the knowledge and understanding they acquire by regularly consulting on-line library materials relating to the course. Tutor support will be available to students via online office hours, prearranged telephone and/or Skype calls and email communication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1 - e.g. group wiki, collaborative writing task</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment 2 - e.g. essay, case study</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>Unit 9</td>
<td>60%</td>
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