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The AQoL Mark 2 Descriptive And Scaling Systems: Methodological Innovations And Comparison With AQoL 1 (An Australian Measure For Cost Utility Analysis: AQoL Mark 2)

Abstract

A recent comparative study concluded that there are significant differences in the utility scores produced by five instruments, namely the AQoL 1, EQ5D, SF36 (Brazier 1 Weights) and the Health Utility Index Mark 3. Partly in response to these results the AQoL 2 has been developed with a number of methodological innovations which both extend the scope and sensitivity of the instrument and also increases content construct validity. Two sets of scoring algorithms are envisaged based respectively upon the time Trade-Off (TTO) and Person Trade-Off (PTO) scaling techniques.

The present paper summarises the strengths and weaknesses of the initial AQoL instrument, describes the methodological innovations of AQoL Mark 2 and presents both the descriptive system and the scoring algorithm. Results produced by AQoL Mark 1 and AQoL Mark 2 are compared for a population of 900 members of the public, outpatients and hospital inpatients.

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