



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Course title: PUBH7015 Decision Making in Health Care

Course coordinator: [Dr Satyamurthy Anuradha](#)

Mode: External

Course introduction:

Decision making in health care is a complex process of integrating quantitative evidence data with subjective outcome values. Decisions have to be made in the face of uncertainties, balancing benefit and harm whilst valuing the preferences of the individual patient. This course explores methods that have been developed to make rational and practical choices in health care for different types of decisions, such as when to use a treatment or when to order a diagnostic test.

Course aims:

The course aims to provide an understanding of the principles of decision making in health care and practical knowledge about how a healthcare decision model is constructed. The course encourages students to consider the ethical conflicts and cognitive biases that underpin the decision making process, while also analysing the ways in which decisions need to be communicated in order to make the process more effective.

Course content:

Specific topics include:

- An overview of decision making in health care
- Managing uncertainties – understanding probabilities
- Determining the best treatment
- Maximising Utility and decision analysis
- Valuing outcomes
- Ethics/Public decision making
- Diagnostic decision making
- Recurring events
- Heuristics and cognitive biases in decision making
- Shared decision making
- Application of decision analyses

Method of assessment:

Two written assignments (80%)
Participation in on-line discussion (10%)
Completion of exercises (10 %)

Recommended text:

Hunink M & Glasziou P. (2001) *Decision making in health and medicine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Required resources:

Study guide: This contains the week-by-week learning material for each topic along with the full text of the required readings and practical exercises.

Online Blackboard site: This provides an interactive environment between students and teachers. Reliable and regular access to the Internet is required.

Further details are provided in the [Course Profile](#)
[Profile:http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7015](http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7015)