

Preface

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Far from being a static subject, pharmacoeconomics continuously evolves: New techniques replace the old ones or offer possibilities that permit more precise calculations and estimates.

Starting from this observation, we decided to update this book ten years after its first publication.

New updated documents and guidelines are cited and the techniques are explained by means of examples gathered from the most recent literature.

In this new version, health technology assessments, due to their growing importance in health economics, are discussed. An entire new chapter, i.e., “Chapter 1. Principles of Epidemiology”, was added, because we thought that a smattering of epidemiology could be helpful for our readership to better understand one of the basic pillars of pharmacoeconomics. Further techniques and models are described, such as multicriteria decision analysis, microsimulation, partitioned survival models, and discretely integrated conditional event simulation. In addition, in the last chapter, i.e., “Chapter 7. Data sources and accounting for uncertainty”, meta-analyses and network meta-analyses are described and clarified by *ad hoc* examples. Finally, confidence ellipses and their relationship with cost-effectiveness acceptability curves are treated.

Despite the considerable amount of new topics covered, we think that the most relevant step forward of this version is due to an extensive quality assessment method in scientific publishing: Each chapter of this 2022 Pharmacoeconomics book underwent peer review. Qualified workers and researchers in this field contributed in enhancing the reliability of the text: To give a proper recognition to their valuable work, their names are declared at the beginning of each chapter.

The content of every chapter is now summarized in the relevant abstract, that allows readers to have a general idea of what they are going to read. For those who are interested in testing themselves, we put at the end of each chapter a specific Questions and Answers section.

Despite these integrations and improvements, the book maintains its quick reference approach: far from being a complete academic textbook on the vast discipline of pharmacoeconomics, it aims at providing practical insight into the methodology and the underlying concepts and to foster the interest and understanding of the rational bases of health care decision making.