

Weyma Lübbe

„Aus ökonomischer Sicht ...“

Was ist der normative Anspruch gesundheitsökonomischer Evaluationen?

Abstract:

Economists, and notably health economists, very often add to their policy recommendations the formula ‚from an economic point of view‘. The contribution starts by exploring what the message of this clause to non-economists might be. The vagueness that it brings about as to the general acceptability of claims to ‚rational‘ allocation, ‚best‘ outcomes etc. is then, first, assessed with respect to the recent debate about IQWiG’s (the German equivalent to Britain’s NICE) unorthodox methodology of health care evaluation. Weaknesses within the theoretical basis of standard health economist’s evaluations, well-known by theoretical economists but rarely mentioned when it comes to policy advice, are then, second, pointed out. Finally, some consequences are drawn for what has to be done to enhance the quality and impact of policy advice in the area of health resource allocation.