Objective:

To practice critical appraisal of an economic evaluation.

Assignment:

Read the economic analysis article by Fowler et al and decide how you would consider this evidence in your presentation to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

Clinical Scenario:

You are representing acute care medicine on your hospital's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Your hospital has selected use of unfractionated heparin (UFH) for thromboprophylaxis for acutely ill medical and surgical patients in the ICU, while other populations such as orthopedic and trauma patients, receive low molecular weight heparin (LMWH). You have read the PROTECT trial, an international randomized blinded trial comparing the effectiveness of UFH and the LMWH dalteparin. PROTECT found no difference in the primary end point of leg deep-vein thrombosis but a reduced rate of pulmonary embolus and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia among critically ill medical-surgical patients who received dalteparin, and no difference in bleeding. On the grounds of the higher acquisition costs of LMWH, your Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has retained formulary approval for UFH. You recall hearing about the PROTECT Economic Evaluation to evaluate the comparative cost-effectiveness of LMWH vs UFH for VTE prophylaxis in critically ill patients. You download it and begin to critically appraise to prepare for next week's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting.

Enclosed Materials:


3. Worksheet for the evaluation of an article on unit title.
Optional Readings:
