

Health econometrics exercise

Critical appraisal of a published article.

### Learning objectives

This exercise is designed to test your skills in critical appraisal and your understanding of econometric techniques used in health economics. It will enable you to:

- recognise the strengths and weaknesses of a published article
- understand the appropriate application of a number of methods of estimation
- judge the validity of research findings

### Instructions

The paper to be appraised is 'Patients whose GP knows complementary medicine tend to have lower costs and live longer' by Peter Kooreman and Erik W. Baars, published in *The European Journal of Health Economics* 13, 769-776.

Having read the paper you should first summarise the study's aims and objectives, and how it seeks to address these. You should then identify and describe the extent to which these objectives are satisfied by the chosen methodology and available data. Discuss the key advantages and disadvantages of the study data and methodology. Finally you should make a judgement of the validity of the results.

### Supporting material

Kooreman, P., & Baars, E. W. (2012). Patients whose GP knows complementary medicine tend to have lower costs and live longer. *The European Journal of Health Economics*, 13(6), 769–76. doi:[10.1007/s10198-011-0330-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-011-0330-2) (open access)

Sampson, C. J., Whitehurst, D. G. T., & Street, A. (2013). Do patients registered with CAM-trained GPs really use fewer health care resources and live longer? A response to Kooreman and Baars. *Eur J Health Econ* (2012). 13:469-776. *The European Journal of Health Economics*. doi:[10.1007/s10198-013-0466-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-013-0466-3) [open access pdf]

Kooreman, P., & Baars, E. W. (2013). Do patients registered with CAM-trained GPs really use fewer health care resources and live longer? A reply to Christopher James Sampson. *The European Journal of Health Economics*. doi:[10.1007/s10198-013-0475-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10198-013-0475-2)

Van Erp, P. (2013). Alternatieve huisartsen werken 15 procent goedkoper? Een verzinsel! *Kloptdatwel?* Retrieved May 21, 2013, from <http://kloptdatwel.nl/2013/05/10/alternatieve-huisartsen-werken-15-procent-goedkoper-een-verzinsel>