Costs in Health Economics

Direct, indirect and intangible: all of them count, even if some have no clear price

DIR

Direct costs

the care itself · medical (tests, drugs, admission, surgery) or non-medical (transport, home adaptations)

IND

Indirect costs

lost productivity: sick leave, days off work, early retirement

INT

Intangible costs

pain, anxiety, suffering, loss of quality of life: no easy price

Cost-effectiveness
Cost per life-year gained

Cost-utility
Cost per QALY: quantity + quality

Perspective
Health system or society changes the costs

Rule: direct = spending on the care itself · indirect = lost productivity · intangible = suffering without an easy price