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Toward a Taxonomy of Value Judgments in Health Economics Modelling

The 'values in science' literature has resulted in much debate, as well as many examples of value judgments that scientists make in the course of their work. Several examples have emerged in climate change and other types of simulation modelling, but examples are lacking from health economics, which also relies heavily on modelling. A better understanding of and 'taxonomy' of value judgments in the modelling process would assist health economists involved in patient-oriented research initiatives, which aim to engage patients throughout the research process and provide patients with meaningful opportunities to influence research decision-making. This interactive presentation will highlight conceptual issues and challenges to developing a taxonomy of value judgments in health economics modelling. Learning objectives include 1) how 'values' are defined in the philosophy of science and how this definition differs from that used in health economics; 2) the types of values discussed in the philosophy of science, the debate around them, and challenges in defining 'value judgments'; 3) four major challenges to the Value-Free Ideal for science and how these apply to health economics modelling. In the context of these issues, the objectives and methods for the BC SUPPORT Unit HESM Methods Cluster project *Social, Ethical, and Other Value Judgments in Health Economics and Simulation Modelling Studies: Implications for Patient-Oriented Research* (co-investigators Diego Silva and Greg Werker) will be discussed.

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Rounds are held weekly on Mondays from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in the VGH Research Pavilion, Room 700, 7th Floor, 828 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC.

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