



# Evidence Synthesis for Decision Making in Healthcare (Statistics in Practice)

*Nicky J. Welton, Alexander J. Sutton, Nicola Cooper, Keith R. Abrams, A. E. Ades*

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In the evaluation of healthcare, rigorous methods of quantitative assessment are necessary to establish interventions that are both effective and cost-effective. Usually a single study will not fully address these issues and it is desirable to synthesize evidence from multiple sources. This book aims to provide a practical guide to evidence synthesis for the purpose of decision making, starting with a simple single parameter model, where all studies estimate the same quantity (pairwise meta-analysis) and progressing to more complex multi-parameter structures (including meta-regression, mixed treatment comparisons, Markov models of disease progression, and epidemiology models). A comprehensive, coherent framework is adopted and estimated using Bayesian methods.

*Key features:*

- A coherent approach to evidence synthesis from multiple sources.
- Focus is given to Bayesian methods for evidence synthesis that can be integrated within cost-effectiveness analyses in a probabilistic framework using Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulation.
- Provides methods to statistically combine evidence from a range of evidence structures.
- Emphasizes the importance of model critique and checking for evidence consistency.
- Presents numerous worked examples, exercises and solutions drawn from a variety of medical disciplines throughout the book.
- WinBUGS code is provided for all examples.

*Evidence Synthesis for Decision Making in Healthcare* is intended for health economists, decision modelers, statisticians and others involved in evidence synthesis, health technology assessment, and economic evaluation of health technologies.

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