

Intersectoral costs of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV: a systematic review of cost-of-illness studies

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Background:

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV can generate costs both within and outside the health sector (also known as intersectoral costs). This review aims to explore whether intersectoral costs associated with STIs and HIV were considered in COI studies, and if, to tabulate these costs according to specific cost sectors.

Methods:

Medline (PubMed), EMBASE (Ovid), Web of Science, CINAHL, PsycINFO, EconLit and NHS EED were searched. Key search terms included terms for cost-of-illness, cost analysis and all terms for HIV/STIs including specific infections. Studies were included that assessed costs beyond healthcare costs. A standardised data extraction form was adopted. A disease-specific cost component table was established based on pre-defined sector-specific classification schemes. Cost results for intersectoral costs were recorded. The quality of studies was assessed using a modified version of the CHEC-list.

Results:

75 COI studies were considered for title/abstract screening. Six studies were available in full-text, and eligible for data extraction and narrative synthesis, having considered intersectoral costs in their analyses. Intersectoral costs were captured in the following sectors: Patient & Family, Household & Leisure, and Productivity. Patient & family costs were addressed in four studies, including patient out-of-pocket payments/co-payments, travel costs and time lost or forgone income. Two studies considered household & leisure cost in terms of care provided by family/friends. All six studies estimated productivity costs for paid labour.

Conclusion:

The importance of intersectoral costs has not sufficiently and widely been highlighted to demand researcher and policy interests. There is a lack of exploration of the wider costs associated with STIs and HIV that needs to be addressed.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine recognises the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.

For an example of a disclosure of interest statement please see below

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