

# #HEJC transcript

## Healthcare Social Media Transcript

**From:** Mon Oct 01 12:00:00 PDT 2012

**To:** Mon Oct 01 13:15:00 PDT 2012

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**UnhealthyEcon**

Who's taking in part in the first [#hejc](#)?

Mon Oct 1 12:04:31 PDT 2012

**aheblog**

Welcome to this month's [#HEJC](#). For links to the paper and some possible discussion points visit <http://t.co/wkxzo2HZ>

Mon Oct 1 12:05:47 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Shall I start? First question I have is the degree to which public views should be used for priority setting? Tyranny of majority? [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:08:14 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

ie to what degree should priority setting be determined by empirical results v ethical type debates? [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:09:05 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

RT [@UnhealthyEcon](#): ie to what degree should priority setting be determined by empirical results v ethical type debates? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:10:57 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) It seems hard to justify allowing anybody else to set priorities, especially when publicly funded [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:10:59 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) ethical type debates still present the problem of whose ethics? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:12:54 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Granted, but where do we draw the line? #hejc \

Mon Oct 1 12:13:04 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

@UnhealthyEcon Public definitely - its important that we don't underestimate level of understanding and how to educate? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:13:16 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Whose ethics matters a great deal. I guess I'm concerned about moralising wrt to certain behaviours/lifestyles. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:14:15 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

I think the reason for the discrepancy highlighted in the paper isn't that the NICE citizens council is out of touch... #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:15:13 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Hi, sorry haven't read the paper, but the idea of a separate cancer drugs fund etc. makes nonsense out of NICE IMHO #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:16:37 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

... a group of people sitting in a room thinking about prioritising just isn't akin to reality #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:16:46 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

Maybe instead of having a NICE citizens council they can contract it out to YouGov #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:17:13 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

@hoiyanadama I think that's a very practical and realistic idea, if only to see what comes of it from an academic perspective #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:18:16 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Of course. And citizens council will only ever have high motivated people, not rep. How should NICE/CC and empiric evidence mesh? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:18:35 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

Hello to the #HEJC, sorry for the late arrival

Mon Oct 1 12:19:46 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Still trying to access paper - how did they recruit sample of 4118!? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:19:51 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

some sort of council is a reasonable place to generate ideas, but not policy #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:20:29 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@nchadborn Online survey from a private co. that have an established panel. Survey closed once 2000 resps for each group. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:20:45 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

@UnhealthyEcon @nchadborn they make it look easy, right! #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:21:35 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@ChrisSampson87](#) I think a balance is a good idea. But then I'm in favour of an elected lords so what do I know ;) [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:21:42 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@ChrisSampson87](#) Were the respondents paid? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:22:10 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

Is the point of the paper trying to empiricise the process of ethics? It is implied in their statistical methods [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:23:01 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

[@hoiyanadama](#) good question. doesn't say. [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:24:01 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

i.e. that there is an underlying population 'ethics generating process' that they are trying to estimate. [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:24:19 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@ChrisSampson87](#) Not an reason to object tho as e.g. YouGov respondents are pretty accurate tho they are paid [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:24:55 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Surely the key issue is whether healthy people can ever judge the benefit or prioritisation of a particular treatment [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:25:00 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

[@unhealthyecon](#) Seems to beg the question on how to Get genuine public views through which sampling method [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:25:14 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

[@siwatson](#) I think that's probably more adventurous than what they set out to do! [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:25:22 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@siwatson](#) Maybe the Q we should ask is what is the NHS for? Can't just ask about the ethics of some treatments [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:26:03 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

[@ChrisSampson87](#) Good point - what did authors try to do - pragmatically? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:26:38 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@mikey3982](#) I accept it's very difficult. Public views are def important but also think reasonableness of views needs to be assessed [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:27:58 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

which of course opens up the question of what counts as reasonable... [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:28:16 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

IMHO it's stretching assumptions of health economics to try to judge whether to

spend on cancer drug A or statin drug B #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:29:08 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@hoiyanadama @siwatson good q. Authors found that QALY maxing wasn't what people went for in making decisions. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:29:09 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

@nchadborn How do you propose to construct a sample then? Esp some suffering rare diseases might have already died... #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:29:12 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

a lot of health economics researchers would be out of work if the public were completely utilitarian #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:29:53 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@hoiyanadama @siwatson They found 'equity-efficiency trade-offs' being made. So maybe I only trust the public when they agree with me? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:30:40 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

More appropriate to ask cancer patient group(s) to compare drug Ai with drug Aii, then ask CVD patients to compare drug Bi and Bii #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:31:16 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

I felt the paper had a Kantian flavour to it. It is about what people could/do consent to. And about the dignity of human life. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:32:26 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

For each disease group, don't fund top 10 treatments, fund all others according to need!! radical?! #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:32:32 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

'equity-efficiency trade-offs' that's a tough one. Easy to understand efficiency but equity is quite another type of beast. #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:33:01 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

Does anybody have any criticisms of the paper? Flaws in design? Or misconclusions? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:33:56 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@hoiyanadama Yep. Brining us back to - whose preferences count? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:34:05 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

@hoiyanadama I think a lot of what could be an equity gain could be put together - most unhealthy is usually most deprived etc.#hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:34:11 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@ChrisSampson87 I'm always sceptical about representativeness of surveys like this. Would random dialling generate diff answers? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:35:17 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

@UnhealthyEcon @hoiyanadama I think it is pop. as whole but what that pop. as whole would choose in each person's position. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:35:39 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@siwatson](#) But the rare diseases don't necessary appears on those who are deprived in socio econ sense... [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:35:39 PDT 2012

**ChrisSampson87**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) I agree, especially when representativeness is really the exact thing they're looking to capture in this study [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:36:24 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Anyone with interest in health economics? we are debating maximising equity and efficiency and Kant... [#HEJC](#) <http://t.co/QH2aLMYv>

Mon Oct 1 12:37:18 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@ChrisSampson87](#) Any sampling based approach to priority setting needs pretty rigourous methods. Wasn't enough detail there for me. [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:37:28 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@siwatson](#) To think in others' shoes is difficult [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:37:58 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

[@nchadborn](#) first real tweet and I forget the hashtag! [#HEJC](#) Interesting paper although not the first of its kind....

Mon Oct 1 12:38:23 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

RT [@nchadborn](#): RT [@nchadborn](#): Anyone with interest in health economics? we are debating maximising equity and efficiency and Kant... [#HEJC](#) <http://t.co/> ...

Mon Oct 1 12:38:23 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

RT [@nchadborn](#): Anyone with interest in health economics? debating max equity and efficiency and Kant... [#HEJC](#) <http://t.co/i20NOIsR> [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:38:30 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@hoiyanadama](#) This is why we use simplifications (eg 'all else being equal') like in this paper - even though it is perhaps unrealistic [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:39:56 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

Green (09) in SSM & Nord over the past decade have done similar studies on societal pref. Surprised they are not cited [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:40:02 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Also thought finding that people generally preferred costly patients groups to others was interesting. Why? [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:40:22 PDT 2012

**butlerceri**

RT [@mikey3982](#): RT [@mikey3982](#): RT [@nchadborn](#): Anyone with interest in health economics? debating max equity and efficiency and Kant... [#HEJC](#) [http://t.co](http://t.co/) ...

Mon Oct 1 12:41:28 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@unhealthyecon](#) As in - why might that be, not why do I find it interesting... [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:41:37 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) Maybe it was felt they 'needed' it more. [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:42:24 PDT 2012

**captain\_canaway**

Ah I'm late for [#HEJC](#) better late than never! Interesting discussion so far by the looks of it! [#tardy](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:42:27 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) Perhaps there is a belief that cost reflects quality and benefit [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:42:45 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) maybe they think that for cheaper treatments they can fund it themselves if not getting from NHS [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:42:48 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) Could be - is the implication that costly needs are more severe? [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:42:56 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

[@butlerceri](#) Thanks for joining hope you have access to the paper wld love your views? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:43:23 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) I think so. But this is why I find the 'all else being equal' and other simplifications in the paper problematic [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:43:34 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) It would be interesting if that was the case. Did I miss whether they looked at cost being related to disease area? [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:43:43 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) I think cancer was the only one they looked at specifically [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:44:10 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) Maybe... I guess the pharm companies would tend to work on drugs/treatments with high demand [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:44:16 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) Their scenarios missed out an interaction effect between disease area, severity, age etc. that may be very important [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:45:05 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@hoiyanadama](#) High demand plus novelty (ie patentability, if that's a word) [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:45:14 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

[@unhealthyecon](#) interested where "the public" view preventing large costly interventions? [#HEJC](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:45:39 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) Yes - age-cost-disease very highly correlated. [#hejc](#)

Mon Oct 1 12:45:52 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@mikey3982 Do you mean with respect to say public health campaigns and the like? smoking cessation or obesity prevention type things? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:46:50 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

@siwatson Wouldn't the authors have to raised the survey sample by several folds to consider all that? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:46:57 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

@UnhealthyEcon So may the drugs people want to fund are those that capture their imagination (advertisements&propoganda) #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:47:46 PDT 2012

**mikey3982**

@UnhealthyEcon Absolutely #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:47:58 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@hoiyanadama Absolutely - Authors found that CDF was less of a priority than politicians thought it was - lobbying effect my hypoth #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:48:37 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Slightly off-topic, but has anyone seen studies of how people perceive media messages about 'NHS can't afford drug A'... etc? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:49:07 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

@UnhealthyEcon May be your paper is suggesting that we shouldn't have elected reps in parliament... ;-) #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:49:51 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@mikey3982 Would be interesting to see evidence. my guess is time preference weighted to now so prevention falls out a bit. any data? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:49:58 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

@nchadborn Do you have a link? #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:50:11 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

@hoiyanadama Perhaps not, but they didn't discuss the possibility #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:50:14 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

Surprised by the finding that the general population would not prioritise children over others according to this study. #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:51:32 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

@Paul\_M\_Mitchell Me too. We found opposite, though it was a review rather than new data (shameless plug alert!) #hejc - <http://t.co/CHC50j62>

Mon Oct 1 12:53:35 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

@Paul\_M\_Mitchell I also thought it to be slightly inconsistent given that they have more 'wider societal benefits' - lifetime QALYs #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:54:43 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) Maybe next months journal club paper so! #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 12:56:55 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) In my teaching exercises I've found age to be less important than I thought it would, by anecdotal only #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:57:32 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) In the paper it says that it is the people with children who support benefits to children #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:58:16 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) I detected a sense of self-interest in some responses - carers preferred things that helped them as well #hejc

Mon Oct 1 12:59:09 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) I think the paper revealed people's lack of detachment from the thought experiment they performed #hejc

Mon Oct 1 13:00:07 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

[@siwatson](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) Hard to ignore own situation. Problematic in all choice experiments. #hejc

Mon Oct 1 13:02:14 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) I don't think it can but it maybe a good proxy as health strongly related to human capital #hejc

Mon Oct 1 13:02:27 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Sorry, just tuned into another channel; choice and control: Stephen Dorrel and Andy Burnham on choice and control in UK #healthdebate #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 13:02:38 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

And it's 9pm! I must be off to prepare an oddly late teleconference at 9.30. Thanks all for the chat #hejc.

Mon Oct 1 13:02:58 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

[@siwatson](#) [@UnhealthyEcon](#) I was a bit surprised by their questionnaire design - they seemed to change it at last minute: under table 1 #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 13:03:06 PDT 2012

**nchadborn**

Cheers, great discussion - difficult topics! #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 13:05:11 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

[@UnhealthyEcon](#) [@Paul\\_M\\_Mitchell](#) Does this limit our ability to reveal a population 'ethics generating process' (if this is our aim)? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 13:05:13 PDT 2012

**Paul\_M\_Mitchell**

Look forward to next months journal club. I might have figured out how to work twitter properly by then! #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 13:05:36 PDT 2012

**aheblog**

That's all for #HEJC this month. Thanks for taking part. A transcript will be

available shortly at <http://t.co/wkxzo2HZ>

Mon Oct 1 13:05:57 PDT 2012

**siwatson**

It's all over! Good discussion. Will be prepared for next month? Same time, same place? #hejc

Mon Oct 1 13:06:31 PDT 2012

**hoiyanadama**

Looking forward to it. :) #HEJC

Mon Oct 1 13:08:23 PDT 2012

**UnhealthyEcon**

Enjoyed the first #hejc. Concerned I may have had too many opinions, but what else is new? See you all next month.

Mon Oct 1 13:09:37 PDT 2012