

Valuation

The EuroQol Valuation Working Group (VWG) has one of the most challenging and broad remits, reflecting the importance of valuation methodology to all our instruments. The VWG is charged with multiple aims across a variety of areas that include:

- investigation of how our existing valuation approaches may be further refined;
- Investigation of new approaches to valuing health;
- examining the basis/rationale for value sets for patient groups; and
- collaboration with other WGs or approved groups that work on conceptual and practical issues concerned with valuation of EQ-5D technologies. Examples are valuation of bolt-ons or EQ-5D-Y.

Currently, the VWG has no urgent issues to address, and therefore we plan to allocate more research funds in the coming rounds to researcher-initiated, or 'bottom up', projects. We encourage all EuroQol members to present their own mainstream or non-mainstream ideas related to the VWG aims as listed in the WG aims document and summarized above, without constraints on research topic.

Despite being mainly interested in bottom up initiatives at the moment, for this call, we have also identified several specific issues that seem particularly relevant to address:

- Qualitative work exploring the reasons why differences exist in the valuation of health states between EQ-5D-Y and EQ-5D states when considered as being experienced by a child/an adolescent or an adult. This could be either in the context of a common valuation task applied to each instrument, or on the reasons underpinning different valuations under different perspectives.
- Appropriate standardised methods for accounting for heteroscedasticity in the modelling of EQ-5D health states (perhaps also in the context of autocorrelation of valuations between states within individual respondents). This is an issue both for the EQ-VT and the various DCE approaches being considered by different teams in the EuroQol group and beyond.
- Approaches for modelling data containing (or likely to contain) significant numbers of non-traders. Related to this, it is important to explore the impact and methods to incorporate such preferences (where rational) in value sets.
- Concerns have been voiced that valuation of health states that are considered worse than dead is problematic. Using cTTO, for instance, we find that the obtained negative scores do not vary much. We seek to understand why this is the case and whether the findings are a product of people's preferences or indicate a limitation of the method. Broader work on valuation of worse than dead is also welcome.

The VWG welcomes research proposals using a variety of different methodological approaches, but the priority is for projects that would provide practical guidance for the EuroQoL Research Foundation in the above areas.