

EP 5

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Health Economics - Prof. Lieven Annemans

Prof. Lieven Annemans — Health Economics Professor



Health economist Prof. Lieven Annemans on value for money in care: how a QALY is counted, why paying per service rewards sickness, and why the best fix for a health system is health.

£30,000

the most England will pay to gain one QALY [23:16](#)

5

QALYs from ten years lived at half of perfect health [22:14](#)

1-2

doctor visits a year most patients chose in an Italian study [42:08](#)

3

sources of evidence: science, the clinician, the patient [47:06](#)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1 A QALY is a unit of health

One year in perfect health is one QALY; ten years at half quality is five. It lets very different treatments be compared. [21:49](#)

2 Neither money nor medicine alone

Thinking only clinically ignores that budgets are finite. Thinking only of cost is absurd: the dead cost nothing. [15:46](#)

3 Fee-for-service rewards sickness

Paid per service, a provider earns more as patients get sicker. A fixed payment per patient rewards keeping them well. [29:56](#)

4 The best fix for healthcare is health

Severe COVID fell hardest on people with obesity and diabetes. His lesson: invest in prevention from school age, not in more beds. [35:43](#)

5 Keep the human in the room

He argues for hybrid care, monitoring at a distance plus real visits, and for AI as a peer that advises while people decide. [42:08](#)

"If your only concern is the money, then you can let people die, they will not cost any money anymore."

Prof. Lieven Annemans · [16:12](#)

CHAPTERS

0:00	Intro	1 min	34:25	The lesson of COVID-19	2 min
0:36	What health economics is	3 min	36:06	Prevention starts in childhood	5 min
3:56	Cost-effectiveness explained	2 min	40:40	Telemedicine and hybrid care	4 min
6:24	Advising the minister of health	2 min	45:09	Medicine as an art	3 min
8:27	How decisions get made	5 min	47:41	Genetics and epigenetics	4 min
13:21	Clinicians and economists	3 min	51:36	Becoming a health economist	3 min
16:42	Patients at the table	4 min	54:43	Housing and health	5 min
21:03	What a QALY is	3 min	1:00:12	AI as a peer, not a boss	5 min
24:30	What a QALY misses	4 min	1:05:40	Healthcare in ten years	2 min
28:37	Fee-for-service or paying for value	6 min			

TERMS EXPLAINED

Health economics

Applying economic thinking to health and healthcare: who pays, for what, and is it worth it.

QALY

Quality-adjusted life year: one year of life in perfect health.

Bundled payment

A fixed sum per patient per period, whatever care they need.

Cost-effectiveness

The extra cost of a treatment set against the extra health it buys.

Fee-for-service

Paying a provider separately for each consultation, test and procedure.

Epigenetics

How environment and behaviour switch genes on and off without changing the DNA.

MENTIONED IN THIS EPISODE

Quality-adjusted life year

EQ-5D, the five dimensions

Evidence-based medicine (1996)

Health in All Policies (WHO)

Listen, watch or download the transcript: aarsentyev.com/podcast/ep5-lieven-annemans

Each time opens the video at that moment. Hosted by Arseniy Arsenyev. A summary of a conversation, not medical advice.