

The QALY & The EVLY

A Guide to ICER's Use of Cost-Effectiveness Tools that Measure How Well Treatments Work

What does the QALY measure?

Regardless of the disease, treatments usually work by helping patients live longer (increased length of life), feel better (improved quality of life), or both. A quality-adjusted life year (QALY) is a way to combine both quality of life and length of life into a **single measure of how well a treatment works**.

Q A L Y

Quality-
Adjusted



Measures how much the treatment helps patients **feel better**

Life
Year



Measures how much the treatment helps patients **live longer**

A QALY measures how many years a treatment can add to a patient's life, as well as the quality of life overall.



[Click here to watch a quick video about ICER's use of the QALY & EVLY.](#)

ICER's Use of the QALY & The EVLY

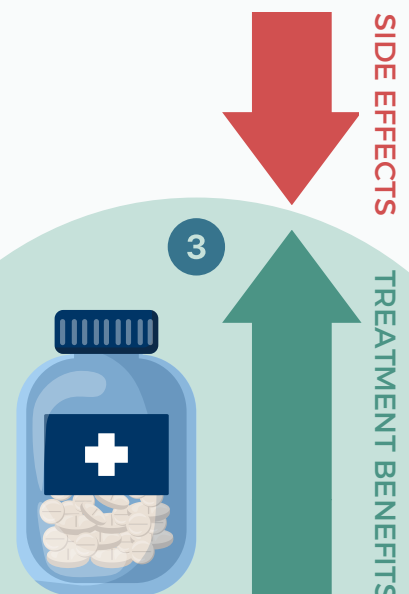
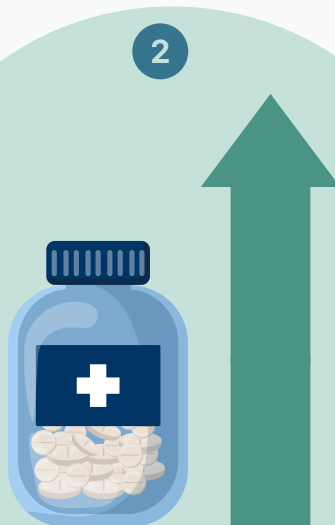
How is a QALY calculated?

A QALY adds up all the benefits and harms of a treatment. If a treatment makes you **feel better and live longer**, then it would offer **more QALYs**. A treatment would offer **fewer QALYs** when it 1) **doesn't help you feel better or live longer**, or 2) if it helps you live longer but **has bad side effects**, making you feel worse.

Patients directly inform the QALY by sharing how they feel (quality of life) during different stages of illness.

Using QALYs to Compare Treatments

- 1** A treatment that helps patients a little...
SMALL AMOUNT OF QALYS
- 2** A treatment that helps patients a lot...
LARGE AMOUNT OF QALYS
- 3** A treatment that helps patients a lot but also has bad side effects...
FEWER QALYS



ICER's Use of the QALY & The EVLY

Why Does ICER Use the QALY?

Because the QALY allows us to understand how a treatment improves quality of life and length of life, it is the international standard for how researchers **compare treatments** to each other. ICER uses the QALY to measure how well new treatments work and what a fair price should be.

What does the EVLY measure?

The equal value life year (EVLY) uses the **same quality of life value** for the years that a treatment adds to a patient's life. This treats people equally, regardless of age, disability, or severe illness.

E V L Y

**Equal
Value**



Measures **quality
of life equally** for
everyone

(during the years that a treatment may extend life)

**Life
Year**



Measures how much
the treatment helps
patients **live longer**

ICER calculates both the QALY and EVLY for every report, providing decision makers with a full picture of how well a treatment works for a patient.

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) is an independent nonprofit organization that does research on how well new treatments work and what a fair price should be. ICER's goal is for all patients to get safe and effective treatments at a fair price.