

# CASE STUDY:

## Identifying utilities for opioid-induced constipation: A review



Utility data for opioid-induced constipation (OIC) were required for use in an economic model. In particular, the client was interested to know whether OIC utility values were likely to show differences between cancer and non-cancer patients.

YHEC conducted a pragmatic review to identify existing utility values for OIC. Because the literature contained relatively few values that would have been appropriate, the review was expanded to assess the possible relevance of utilities elicited in patients with constipation that was not opioid-induced. The review also assessed whether there are differences in utilities for cancer and non-cancer patients experiencing the same type of symptoms when they are caused by cancer or non-cancer illnesses.

YHEC was able to identify appropriate utility values to be used in an economic model for OIC.



YHEC recommended the most appropriate values to use, concluding that non-OIC values would be inappropriate. Sensitivity analyses were recommended to model possible differences in cancer and non-cancer populations. These results contributed to their model design.

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