

Assessment

Cite this article: Shields GE, Buck D, Elvidge J, Hayhurst KP, Davies LM (2019). Cost-Effectiveness Evaluations of Psychological Therapies for Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder: A Systematic Review. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care* 35, 317–326. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462319000448>

Received: 24 August 2018

Revised: 17 April 2019

Accepted: 27 May 2019

First published online: 22 July 2019

Key words:


Schizophrenia; Bipolar disorder; Cost-effectiveness; Cost-utility; Economic evaluation

Author for correspondence:

Gemma E. Shields,

E-mail: gemma.shields@manchester.ac.uk

Cost-Effectiveness Evaluations of Psychological Therapies for Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder: A Systematic Review

Gemma Elizabeth Shields¹ , Deborah Buck², Jamie Elvidge³,
Karen Petra Hayhurst⁴ and Linda Mary Davies¹

¹Centre for Health Economics, Division of Population Health, University of Manchester; ²Personal and Social Services Research Unit, University of Manchester; ³National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, United Kingdom and ⁴Division of Psychology and Mental Health, University of Manchester, Manchester

Abstract

Objectives. This review aims to assess the cost-effectiveness of psychological interventions for schizophrenia/bipolar disorder (BD), to determine the robustness of current evidence and identify gaps in the available evidence.

Methods. Electronic searches (PsycINFO, MEDLINE, Embase) identified economic evaluations relating incremental cost to outcomes in the form of an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio published in English since 2000. Searches were concluded in November 2018. Inclusion criteria were: adults with schizophrenia/BD; any psychological/psychosocial intervention (e.g., psychological therapy and integrated/collaborative care); probability of cost-effectiveness at explicitly defined thresholds reported. Comparators could be routine practice, no intervention, or alternative psychological therapies. Screening, data extraction, and critical appraisal were performed using pre-specified criteria and forms. Results were summarized qualitatively. The protocol was registered on the PROSPERO database (CRD42017056579).

Results. Of 3,864 studies identified, 12 met the criteria for data extraction. All were integrated clinical and economic randomized controlled trials. The most common intervention was cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT, 6/12 studies). The most common measure of health benefit was the quality-adjusted life-year (6/12). Follow-up ranged from 6 months to 5 years. Interventions were found to be cost-effective in most studies (9/12); the probability of cost-effectiveness ranged from 35–99.5 percent. All studies had limitations and demonstrated uncertainty (particularly related to incremental costs).

Conclusions. Most studies concluded psychological interventions for schizophrenia/BD are cost-effective, including CBT, although there was notable uncertainty. Heterogeneity across studies makes it difficult to reach strong conclusions. There is a particular need for more evidence in the population with BD and for longer-term evidence across both populations.

Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (BD) are among the top twenty causes of disability in the world, with an estimated 15.2 million years lived with disability (YLD) due to schizophrenia and 9.9 million YLD due to BD globally (2013 estimates) (1). The rate of all-cause mortality in schizophrenia and BD, over 15-year follow-up, is 2.08 and 1.77 times greater than the general population, respectively (2). Additionally, the premature mortality gap between individuals with schizophrenia and BD, and the general population is growing (2). The majority of premature deaths are linked to physical illness, such as cardiovascular and metabolic disease (2–8). Review evidence points to a link between premature mortality and morbidity and long-lasting negative health behaviors (7). A wide range of other factors also impact on quality of life, including cognitive impairment, discrimination, stigma, social exclusion, and reduced opportunities for employment and education (7; 9–19). The impact on caregivers quality of life and time is also substantial (7).

As well as the humanistic burden, there is a large economic burden associated with schizophrenia and BD. Review evidence points to annual costs attributed to schizophrenia of between US\$94 million and US\$102 billion for different countries across the world (20). At least half (50–85 percent) of these were indirect costs, such as productivity loss (e.g., absenteeism from work) or informal care (20). Total costs for people with schizophrenia and BD are estimated to reach £14.7 billion by 2026, with 57 percent of these associated with lost earnings (21).

Typically, the first-line therapeutic option for schizophrenia or BD is pharmacological (e.g., antipsychotic medication and/or mood stabilizers). However, some individuals do not adhere to, or actively decline medication for a variety of reasons; and symptoms may be unresponsive to medication, or require further support (22). Psychological therapies, plus usual care (typically pharmacological treatments), can improve symptoms, and increase quality of life and functioning

in people with schizophrenia and BD (23–26). Guidelines suggest that psychological therapies should be part of management strategies that are tailored to individual needs (27;28).

People with schizophrenia and BD comprise the majority of the population with severe mental illness; 94 percent of severe mental health service users in the United Kingdom have a diagnosis of either schizophrenia or BD (29). Available literature highlights the economic and patient burden of schizophrenia and BD, demonstrating the need for effective treatment in this patient group. Constraints on health and social care funding require that existing resources are allocated efficiently; economic evaluation provides a useful tool to support decision making for these patient groups.

Most systematic reviews of the cost-effectiveness of treatments for psychosis have focused on pharmacological therapies. Three previous reviews that included psychological therapies were identified for schizophrenia or BD (30–32). Amos et al. (2012) focused on early intervention (EI) for psychosis (30). Desmedt et al. (2016) evaluated the cost-effectiveness of integrated care models for people with chronic diseases, which included six studies on schizophrenia (31). Finally, Abdul Pari et al. (2014) focused on management strategies (including pharmacological management) for BD (32). While these reviews are valuable, they contain little recent evidence and are somewhat limited in scope, either by intervention or population group. Therefore, a more up-to-date literature search and comprehensive synthesis of the evidence is required to support evidence-based practice and research in the field.

The aim of this review was to determine the robustness of the current evidence base for economic evaluations of psychological interventions for schizophrenia or BD, and to identify any gaps in this evidence base.

Methods

The review protocol was published on the online PROSPERO international register of systematic reviews (CRD42017056579) (33).

Search Strategy

Searches were initially performed in August 2015 and were updated in January 2017 and November 2018. Searches were restricted to publications from year 2000 onward (to maximize relevance to current practice) in English language on the OVID Medline, EMBASE, and PsychINFO databases. The NHS EED database was searched in the initial search; later searches excluded this database because new papers were not added after 2015. Search terms included terms specific to economic evaluation, the population of interest, and psychological therapy. Strategies and terms varied according to the database design. Free-text and standardized (MESH) subject terms were used. Strategies were pilot tested to ensure all studies already known to the authors were retrieved. The full search strategies are provided in the Supplementary Table 1.

Selection of Studies

Inclusion criteria are outlined in Table 1. Studies not meeting these criteria were excluded during the screening process.

Independent screening was undertaken at two stages (first, of abstracts and titles, then of full papers) by four reviewers (G.E.S., D.B., K.P.H., J.E.). A fifth reviewer was used to resolve

Table 1. Inclusion Criteria for Systematic Review of Psychological Interventions for Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder

Criterion	Requirement for inclusion
Population	Adults with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Studies that included individuals with dual diagnosis and/or co-morbidity were eligible for inclusion.
Intervention	Psychological interventions, which include 'psychological therapy', IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies), integrated care, collaborative care, talking therapies, psychological well-being practitioners, and/or liaison workers.
Comparator	Comparison with routine practice or no intervention, or with any of the above interventions.
Outcomes	Full economic evaluation relating costs and outcomes in an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER), or some measure of net benefit that incorporates health outcomes. Studies had to include a cost-effectiveness acceptability curve (CEAC) or explicitly report probabilities of being cost-effective to allow for an assessment of uncertainty.
Setting and study type	Studies in a community, primary, or outpatient setting. Studies that include a full economic evaluation comparing both costs and outcomes. Any study types/designs except case reports.
Other	Journal articles published in English language between January 2000 and November 2018.

disagreements (L.M.D.). The primary reason for exclusion was recorded at both stages.

Data Extraction and Quality Appraisal

The NHS EED quality checklist for data extraction and critical appraisal was adapted to develop a predefined data extraction form and the CHEERS checklist was used to support critical appraisal (34;35). Data extraction and quality assessment included information on study methodology, results, limitations, evidence gaps, and risk of bias. Data extraction was completed by one reviewer (D.B. papers published until 2016; L.M.D. papers published from 2016 onward) with 20 percent of data extraction checked by a second reviewer (G.E.S.).

Review findings are presented by means of narrative synthesis. As expected, and typical of economic evaluations, included studies and interventions were highly heterogeneous, limiting the usefulness of any quantitative synthesis (e.g., meta-analysis).

Cost values were converted into 2017 U.S. dollars, using the price index for each country and the purchasing power parity conversion factor, to facilitate comparison between studies set in different countries (36;37).

Results

In total, 4,412 articles were identified through database searches; 3,864 remained after excluding duplicates. Primary screening of abstracts and titles reduced this to 232 papers for full text review. Twelve papers, specific to schizophrenia or BD, were identified and included in the review (Figure 1).

An overview of the key study characteristics is provided in Table 2.

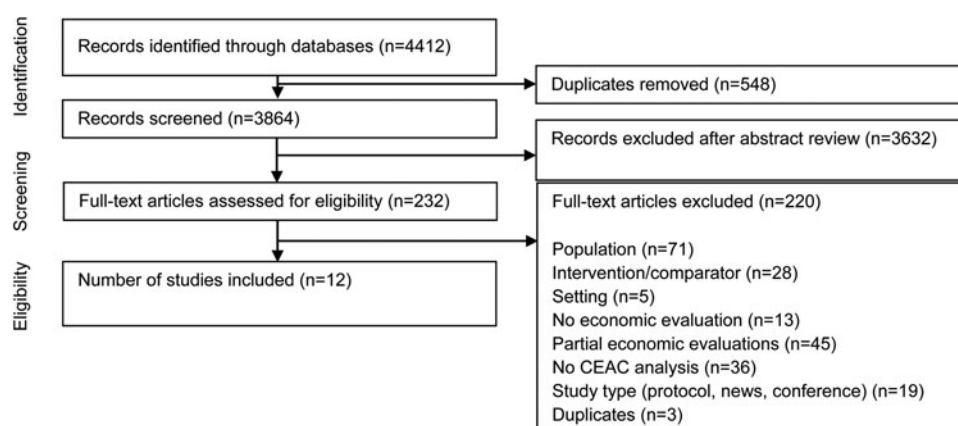


Figure 1. Identification of studies.

Critical Appraisal

An overview of the quality of reporting (using the CHEERS checklist) of the economic evaluations is provided in Supplementary Table 2.

Population

According to trial recruitment criteria, the majority of study populations were predominantly made up of participants with schizophrenia (38–47). Two studies focused on participants with BD (48;49). Study participants were predominantly male and between 23 and 46 years old (Table 2). Note that this review included studies considering a population with an author reported diagnosis of schizophrenia or BD, exact diagnosis criteria could vary across studies.

There was inconsistency in how duration of illness was defined. Three studies did report duration of illness: Barton et al. (2009) reported a mean of 4.8 years, van der Gaag et al. (2011) 10.14 to 11.02 years, and Priebe et al. (2016) a median of 11 years (range, 7 to 18 years) (39;42;46). Patel et al. (2010) reported that over a half of patients had been in contact with psychiatric services for at least 10 years (41). McCrone et al. (2010) reported the proportion of patients with a first episode of psychosis (86 percent in the intervention group versus 71 percent in the control group) (40). Two studies reported the duration of untreated illness: Karow et al. (2012) reported means of 167 and 182 weeks in the intervention and control arms, respectively, and Rosenheck et al. (2016) a median of 74 weeks (44;47). One study reported the age of onset (22 years) (43), while another focused on the mean number of previous hospitalizations (6.3 in the intervention arm, 5.1 in the control arm) (49). Camacho et al. (2017) reported that over a half of participants had 20 or more previous bipolar episodes (48). In two studies, duration of illness was not reported at all (38;45). These differences in quantifying duration of illness demonstrate the challenges in comparing study populations and drawing conclusions related to subgroups or specific populations. The observed variation in study populations (some of which is unclear due to differences in reporting) means that we are unable to differentiate between subgroups. Therefore, we considered the twelve studies as a whole.

Intervention and Comparator

The most common intervention was CBT (6/12 studies) (38;39–42;49). The inclusion of CBT is clearly associated with publication date; the six oldest studies evaluate CBT as an intervention whereas

the six more recent studies consider alternative psychological interventions. Four studies considered interventions focusing on multidisciplinary provision of care (40;44;45;47). Three other intervention types were identified; Crawford et al. (2012) evaluated art therapy, Priebe et al. (2016) evaluated body psychotherapy (which uses movement and the body as a form of treatment) and Camacho et al. (2017) evaluated group psychoeducation which aims to enhance people's understanding of their condition (43;46;48). "Standard care" was the most common comparator (9/12) (38;40–45;47;49). Standard care definitions varied across studies, but common themes included usual access to secondary mental health services and pharmacological treatment. The exact components of standard care (e.g., specific medications and doses) were not typically reported; however, these are likely to be reported in the trial publications. One study did not describe standard care at all (41). This variation reduces the generalizability of each study.

Measure of Health Benefit

Six of the included articles presented a CUA (39;43;44;46–48), typically using the generic EQ-5D questionnaire to derive utilities and estimate quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) (39;43;44;46;48). Rosenheck et al. (2016) applied a published mapping algorithm to estimate utility weights from Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS) scores using standard gamble and visual analogue scales (47;50).

The ten cost-effectiveness analyses (CEAs) used eight different measures of health benefit. Three used the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF), a scoring system for severity of illness in psychiatry (38;43;45). Other psychiatric measures included full vocational recovery (40), the Social Functioning Scale (42), and PANSS negative scale scores (46). One study used a subset of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III) focusing on working memory (41). Another used the generic Quality of Life Scale (47). The studies focusing on participants with BD conducted a CEA using the cost per days free of bipolar episodes (49) and the cost to avoid one relapse or to gain a relapse-free year (48). The heterogeneity in outcome measures used means that it is difficult to determine an overall, comparative, estimate of cost-effectiveness. This is a common issue with CEAs, as there are no agreed threshold levels of cost per disease-specific outcome (51–53).

Included Costs

The most common perspective taken within included studies was that of the healthcare provider (7/12) (39,44,46–49). Types of

Table 2. Overview of Studies

Author (year)	Population	Setting	Intervention	Comparator	Study type (measure used)	Time horizon
Haddock et al. (2003) (38)	Dual diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or delusional disorder, and substance dependence/misuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: NR • Proportion male: NR • Sample size = 36 	Secondary and community care in the United Kingdom	Cognitive-behavioural therapy combined with motivational intervention plus standard care	Standard care	CEA (GAF)	18 months
Lam et al. (2005) (49)	Bipolar I disorder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: intervention 46.4 (SD 12.1), control 41.5 (SD 10.8) • Proportion male: CTG 54%, SC 57% • Sample size = 103 	Secondary care in the United Kingdom	Cognitive therapy plus standard care	Standard care	CEA (days free of bipolar episodes)	30 months
Barton et al. (2009) (39)	Early psychosis, including schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, and psychotic depression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 28.9 (range: 18-52) • Proportion male: 71.4% • Sample size = 77 	Secondary and community care in the United Kingdom	Social recovery orientated cognitive-behavioural therapy	Case management	CUA (EQ-5D)	9 months
McCrone et al. (2010) (40)	Confirmed diagnosis of non-affective psychosis (schizophrenia was the most common condition) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: intervention 26 (SD 6), control 27 (SD 6) • Proportion male: intervention 55%, control 74% • Sample size = 144 	Secondary and community care in the United Kingdom	Assertive outreach	Standard care	CEA (full vocational recovery)	18 months
Patel et al. (2010) (41)	Schizophrenia (alongside cognitive and social functioning difficulties) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 36 • Proportion male: 73% • Sample size = 85 	Secondary care in the United Kingdom	Cognitive remediation therapy plus standard care	Standard care	CEA (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III (WAIS-III) working memory)	40 weeks
van der Gaag et al. (2011) (42)	Schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder with persistent symptoms despite antipsychotic medication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: intervention 36.52 (SD 11.18), control 37.45 (10.61) • Proportion male: CBT 56%, SC 57% • Sample size = 216 	Secondary care in the Netherlands	Cognitive behavioural therapy plus standard care	Standard care	CEA (Social Functioning Scale (SFS) days of normal functioning)	18 months

Crawford et al. (2012) (43)	Schizophrenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 41 (SD 12) • Proportion male: 67% • Sample size = 417 	Secondary and community care in the United Kingdom	Group art therapy plus standard care	Standard care	CEA (GAF score) CUA (EQ-5D)	12 months
Karow et al. (2012) (44)	Schizophrenia, schizophrenia spectrum disorder, schizoaffective disorder, delusional disorder, or psychotic disorder not otherwise specified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: intervention 31.4 (SD 9.9), control 37.6 (SD 11.7) • Proportion male: intervention 56.3%, control 57.1% • Sample size = 120 	Secondary care in Germany	Assertive community treatment (ACT) and integrated care	Standard care	CUA (EQ-5D)	12 months
Hastrup et al. (2013) (45)	A clinical diagnosis within the schizophrenia spectrum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: NR • Proportion male: NR • Sample size = 547 	Secondary and community care in Denmark	Early interventions for first-episode psychosis	Standard care	CEA (GAF)	5 years
Priebe et al. (2016) (46)	Schizophrenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 42.2 (SD 10.7) • Proportion male: 74% • Sample size = 275 	Community care in the United Kingdom	Body psychotherapy	Pilates class	CUA (EQ-5D) CEA (PANSS negative score)	6 months
Rosenheck et al. (2016) (47)	First-episode psychosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 23 • Proportion male: intervention 66%, control 78% • Sample size = 404 	Community care in the United States	An integrated, multidisciplinary, team-based treatment approach (IMT)	Standard care	CUA (mapping function applied to estimate utilities from PANSS scores) CEA (QLS)	2 years
Camacho et al. (2017) (48)	Bipolar disorder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean age: 45 • Proportion male: 42% • Sample size = 304 	Primary care in England	Group psychoeducation	Group peer support	CUA (EQ-5D) CEA (relapse free year and relapse avoided)	96 weeks

ACT, assertive community treatment; CEA, cost-effectiveness analysis; CBT, cognitive behavioural therapy; CUA, cost-utility analysis; EQ-5D, EuroQoL 5-Dimension questionnaire; GAF, global assessment of functioning; NR, not reported; IMT, integrated multidisciplinary team-based treatment approach; PANSS, positive and negative symptom scale; QLS, quality of life scale; SD, standard deviation; SFS, social functioning scale; WAIS-III, Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III working memory.

costs differed across studies. One study considered costs of schizophrenia-related health care only, excluding assertive community treatment and all other costs. This was the most limited inclusion of costs in the identified studies (44). Other studies captured intervention, inpatient, outpatient, and residential day service costs. Most included primary and community care, medication and social workers (10/12). Less common costs included were: criminal justice services (3/12) (40;41;43), patient out of pocket costs (3/12) (38;39;42), social security benefits (e.g., sick pay) (41), lost wages (42), and informal care (all 1/12) (42). Three studies discounted future costs (38;43;45). However, this was not necessary in most studies due to the short time horizons (<1 or 2 years). Two studies appeared to collect certain costs but did not report them. The first described the inclusion of productivity losses; later excluding these because fewer than 5 percent of participants were used at baseline (43). The second detailed that medication data were collected but not costed. It is unlikely that this omission has an important bearing on cost-effectiveness conclusions, as interventions are unlikely to affect medication use within the short study timeframe (46).

Risk of Bias

All economic evaluations were conducted using data collected in trials. One trial was nonrandomized, increasing the risk of selection bias (44). The remaining evaluations were part of randomized trials, generally regarded as robust evidence. Over half reported that assessors were blinded but blinding of clinicians and participants was not possible due to the intervention types (38;41;43;45;46;48;49). The remaining studies did not report blinding (39;40;42;44;47). While blinding is important in reducing study bias, it is accepted that blinding is more challenging in pharmacological trials (54). All studies showed that arms were similar at baseline, with no significant differences that may confound results. Six studies confirmed that they were not powered to detect differences in cost-effectiveness (41–43;45–47); the remainder did not report this information. Two studies applied a complete case analysis (40;45), two did not report how they handled missing data (41;47), and eight imputed missing data using various techniques (38;39;42–44;46;48;49). Eight studies explicitly adjusted for a variety of baseline demographic data (38–41;43;46;48;49).

Follow-up ranged from 6 months to 5 years (median, 18 months). Only two studies were over 2 years in duration.

Study Results

The key results from included studies are presented in Table 3. It is important to note that these results reflect varying time horizons.

All included studies found empirical clinical improvements in the intervention arm. Seven noted that this difference was statistically significant, including five of six CBT studies and half of all team-based interventions (two of four) (38;40–42;44;47;49). Barton et al. (2009) also considered a CBT intervention but did not describe whether the change was statistically significant (39). One of the team-based interventions (early interventions for first-episode psychosis) was found to cause no significant change in health (45). Two “experimental” treatments (art therapy and body psychotherapy) did not have a statistically significant impact on health (43;46). The third (psychoeducation) did not report statistical significance, however, the 95 percent CI for the trial analysis did not cross zero for QALYs, indicating a statistically significant result (48). Camacho et al. (2017) reported

that the within trial economic analysis demonstrated a net benefit of group psycho-education (vs group peer support) on three health benefit measures (QALYs, relapse avoided, and relapse free years). The authors used an economic model to explore the cost effectiveness of group psychotherapy compared with treatment as usual. This also found a net improvement in QALYs for group psychotherapy. However, the 95 percent confidence intervals crossed zero, suggesting this difference was not statistically significant (48).

Incremental costs were highly uncertain. All but two studies noted that the impact of the intervention on overall costs was not statistically significant (38;40–47;49). The two remaining studies did not report any statistical significance testing (30); one of these did show that the 95 percent CI crossed zero, indicating incremental costs were not statistically significant (48). The study by Hastrup et al. (2013) stands out as an outlier, reporting the highest intervention saving of \$35,864 per patient, but with the longest follow-up period (5 years) (45). Six studies conducted some form of sensitivity analysis on costs including: omitting medication costs, varying discount rates, and assuming therapy groups were run by volunteers (38;39;43;45–47). None of these sensitivity analyses indicated statistically significant differences in incremental costs. Because they focused on costs only, key drivers of cost-effectiveness are unknown.

Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) results across studies are challenging to summarize due to differences in the chosen measure of health benefit. Seven studies reported cost savings due to the intervention (38;40;41;44–46;49); therefore, the intervention was dominant in cost-effectiveness terms (health improving and cost saving). Six studies reported the ICER using QALYs, ranging from dominant to \$87,562 per QALY. Studies reported the likelihood of cost-effectiveness relative to a specified cost-per-outcome threshold, and this raises one of the key limitations of the studies: recommended thresholds only exist for QALYs (52;55;56). Three studies presented the percentage likelihood of cost-effectiveness conservatively, assuming that the decision maker would not be prepared to pay anything additional for an improvement in health (38;40;41). Given the lack of thresholds for the majority of health benefits, it is left to decision makers to consider how much they would be prepared to pay for specific health gains.

Discussion

All included studies showed health benefits attributed to the respective intervention, generally to a significant degree, although incremental costs were much more uncertain, as no studies identified a significant impact on costs. The majority of studies, therefore, concluded that psychological interventions, including CBT, are cost-effective for the treatment of people with schizophrenia. Only two studies were identified for BD with different conclusions regarding cost-effectiveness. A key limitation of the identified literature is that many studies used arbitrary thresholds for cost-effectiveness and no study reported being powered to detect differences in costs so there is some subjectivity around these conclusions.

Heterogeneity across studies makes comparisons challenging, in particular, the use of different measures of health outcome. The variation in outcome measures is likely to be partly due to the lack of a recommended outcome measure. It has been argued that generic measures of health, such as the EQ-5D, may be insensitive to psychosis symptoms and that a symptom-based measure should be considered (57–59), although others

Table 3. Key Study Outcomes

Author (year)	Intervention and comparator	Incremental health benefits (per patient)	Incremental costs (per patient) (2017 US\$)	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (2017 US\$/QALY)	Probability of cost-effectiveness (2017 US\$/QALY)
Haddock et al. (2003) (38)	Cognitive-behavioral therapy combined with motivational intervention plus routine care vs routine care alone	9.91 improvement on GAF	-\$2,452	Dominant	69% (any amount for an extra point on GAF)
Lam et al. (2005) (49)	Cognitive therapy plus standard care vs standard care	110 fewer Bipolar episode days	-\$2,530	Dominant	80% (\$18 per day free from a bipolar episode)
Barton et al. (2009) (39)	Social recovery orientated cognitive-behavioral therapy vs case management	0.035 QALYs gained	\$1,171	\$33,007 per QALY	54% (\$35,031 per QALY threshold)
McCrone et al. (2010) (40)	Assertive outreach vs standard care	6.0 improvement on MANSA 12% more with a vocational recovery	-\$4,429	Dominant	76% (not willing to pay anything for a MANSA improvement)
Patel et al. (2010) (41)	Cognitive remediation therapy vs standard care	1.33 improvement on WAIS-III	-\$241	Dominant	80% (anything for an improvement)
van der Gaag et al. (2011) (42)	Cognitive behavioral therapy vs standard care	77 additional days of normal functioning	\$4,972	\$66 per day with normal functioning	70% (\$118 for an additional day of normal functioning)
Crawford et al. (2012) (43)	Group art therapy plus standard care vs standard care	0.043 QALYs gained 1.2 improvement on GAF	-\$2,072	\$48,136 per QALY \$1,732 per unit change in GAF score	50% (flat CEAC – between 0 and \$17,128 willingness to pay per QALY)
Karow et al. (2012) (44)	Assertive community treatment and integrated care vs standard care	0.1 QALYs gained	-\$3,502	Dominant	99.5% (\$69,990 per QALY)
Hastrup et al. (2013) (45)	Early interventions for first-episode psychosis vs standard care	1.19 improvement on GAF	-\$35,864	Dominant	80% (\$69,737 per point increase in the GAF)
Priebe et al. (2016) (46)	Body psychotherapy vs pilates class	0.001 QALY gain 0.21 PANSS negative score reduction	-\$37	Dominant	65% (\$29,785 per QALY)
Rosenheck et al. (2016) (47)	An integrated, multidisciplinary, team-based treatment approach vs standard care	0.25 improvement on the QLS	\$3,804	\$15,216 per QLS point improvement \$87,562 per QALY	94% (\$40,000 per QLS-SD) 90-95% (\$210,000 per QALY)
Camacho et al. (2017) (48) ^a	Group psychoeducation vs group peer support	0.023 QALYs 0.131 years relapse free 0.102 number of relapses avoided	\$1,635	\$71,096 per QALY \$12,483 per relapse free year \$16,032 per relapse avoided (during follow-up)	35% (\$44,678 per QALY) 99% (\$44,678 per relapse free year) 99% (\$44,678 per relapse avoided)

CEAC, cost-effectiveness acceptability curve; CUA, cost-utility analysis; GAF, global assessment of functioning; MANSA, Manchester Short Assessment of Quality of Life; NR, not reported; PANSS, positive and negative symptom scale; QALY, quality-adjusted life-year; QLS, quality of life scale; SD, standard deviation; SFS, social functioning scale; WAIS-III, Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-III working memory.

^a For the study by Camacho et al. (2017) (48), the trial results are presented here as they reflect the primary analysis.

refute this (60–62). One review noted that while there have been many patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) developed in psychosis, methodological quality is limited and different measures focus on different aspects (e.g., treatment satisfaction, quality of life, quality of the therapeutic relationship) (63). This multi-faceted approach to PROMs makes it hard to identify which outcome is the most appropriate. In addition, the choice of outcome measure is likely to be affected by the specific objectives of the intervention, which may focus on one aspect of the

illness. There is a continuing debate regarding whether clinical recovery is aligned with patient experience, and thus whether it is truly meaningful to the individual (64).

A further complication is that there are no clear decision-making thresholds for most measures used in studies. Where there is no agreed threshold, the percentage likelihoods of cost-effectiveness produced by studies cannot be meaningfully compared.

The review found limited evidence regarding long-term differences in health and cost outcomes with psychological

interventions in this population. Longer-term trials, and modeling studies extrapolating trial data over longer durations, would be useful to resolve this evidence gap.

While the evidence generally supports the use of psychological therapies in this population, decision/policy makers wishing to use the evidence would need to consider whether the results can be generalized to their setting, such as the applicability of standard care in the trial and the age of the population within the trial. They would also have to determine an acceptable willingness to pay for specific health gains. Additionally, there are psychological interventions that have not yet been evaluated for cost-effectiveness, such as mindfulness, for which clinical evidence is heterogeneous and of limited quality (65). No studies were identified that looked at varying medication and introducing psychological treatment concurrently, which would be interesting as these are likely to be used in combination with one another. As more evidence becomes available, this review will need to be updated.

Our findings are similar to previous reviews, suggesting that, although the results are predominantly in favor of psychological therapies within this group, there are issues of generalizability, uncertainty, and a paucity of long-term data (30–32).

This review is subject to several limitations. It was restricted to English language articles and did not include unpublished literature. Including the grey literature and unpublished reports may be more likely to identify studies with inconclusive or negative cost-effectiveness results (66). Additionally, studies have found that economic data are more susceptible to publication bias when compared with clinical data (67). However, a search of the grey literature was outside the scope and resources for this review. Nevertheless, our review did identify published studies with inconclusive results (e.g., demonstrated by the reporting of non-significant cost outcomes) and negative results, which may mitigate the impact of publication bias. Our setting type did not include online interventions; although no studies were screened out because of this. The growth of online therapies in mental health has so far focused on adults with depression and anxiety. However, it is likely that future studies will consider the role of technology in the treatment of severe mental illness meaning that the scope of future reviews will need to be expanded (68). Finally, the review included psychological therapies, as existing reviews typically focused on pharmaceuticals. However, it may be useful to view findings for each intervention type side by side.

The review highlights several important considerations for future research; longer-term evidence, from randomized controlled trials and/or economic modeling studies, is needed to assess all important differences in health and cost outcomes from psychological interventions for schizophrenia and BD. Future studies should consider the comparability and ease of interpretation of their cost-effectiveness results; decision makers are unlikely to be able to draw firm conclusions from an evidence base comprising such varied measures of health benefit. Generic measures of benefit, such as QALYs, can be easily compared across studies and even disease groups. Furthermore, QALYs have well-defined thresholds against which to base decisions regarding cost-effectiveness. Sensitivity analyses of clinical data, which can identify key drivers of cost-effectiveness, were generally lacking in the included studies. This form of analysis can characterize decision uncertainty and also guide future data collection. Finally, most studies were conducted in the United Kingdom and Europe. Research findings from a wider range of geographical settings are needed to ensure that decision makers have evidence that is generalizable to their jurisdiction.

This study presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) under its Programme Grants for Applied Research program (grant reference no. RP-PG-0611-20004). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

Supplementary material. The supplementary material for this article can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462319000448>

Conflicts of interest. The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References

1. **GBD Disease and Injury Incidence and Prevalence Collaborators** (2016) Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 310 diseases and injuries, 1990–2015: A systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015. *Lancet* **388**, 1545–1602.
2. **Hayes JE, Miles J, Walters K, King M, Osborn DPJ** (2015) A systematic review and meta-analysis of premature mortality in bipolar affective disorder. *Acta Psychiatr Scand* **131**, 417–425.
3. **Brown S, Kim M, Mitchell C, Inskip H** (2010) Twenty-five year mortality of a community cohort with schizophrenia. *Br J Psychiatry* **196**, 116–121.
4. **Lawrence D, Hancock KJ, Kisely S** (2013) The gap in life expectancy from preventable physical illness in psychiatric patients in Western Australia: Retrospective analysis of population based registers. *BMJ* **346**, f2539.
5. **Saha S, Chant D, McGrath J** (2007) A systematic review of mortality in schizophrenia. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* **64**, 1123.
6. **Leucht S, Burkard T, Henderson J, Maj M, Sartorius N** (2007) Physical illness and schizophrenia: A review of the literature. *Acta Psychiatr Scand* **116**, 317–333.
7. **Millier A, Schmidt U, Angermeyer MC, et al.** (2014) Humanistic burden in schizophrenia: A literature review. *J Psychiatr Res Pergamon* **54**, 85–93.
8. **Wahlbeck K, Westman J, Nordentoft M, Gissler M, Laursen TM** (2011) Outcomes of Nordic mental health systems: Life expectancy of patients with mental disorders. *Br J Psychiatry* **199**, 453–458.
9. **Farrelly S, Clement S, Gabbidon J, et al.** (2014) Anticipated and experienced discrimination amongst people with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder: A cross sectional study. *BMC Psychiatry BioMed Central* **14**, 157.
10. **Thornicroft G, Brohan E, Rose D, et al.** (2009) Global pattern of experienced and anticipated discrimination against people with schizophrenia: A cross-sectional survey. *Lancet* **373**, 408–415.
11. **Karidi MV, Vassilopoulou D, Savvidou E, et al.** (2015) Bipolar disorder and self-stigma: A comparison with schizophrenia. *J Affect Disord* **184**, 209–215.
12. **Pattyn E, Verhaeghe M, Sercu C, Bracke P** (2013) Medicalizing versus psychologizing mental illness: What are the implications for help seeking and stigma? A general population study. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol* **48**, 1637–1645.
13. **Foruzandeh N, Parvin N** (2013) Occupational therapy for inpatients with chronic schizophrenia: A pilot randomized controlled trial. *Japan J Nurs Sci* **10**, 136–141.
14. **Killackey EJ, Jackson HJ, Gleeson J, Hickie IB, McGorry PD** (2006) Exciting career opportunity beckons! Early intervention and vocational rehabilitation in first-episode psychosis: Employing cautious optimism. *Aust New Zeal J Psychiatry* **40**, 951–62.
15. **Szkulcka-Dębek M, Miernik K, Stelmachowski J, et al.** (2016) Schizophrenia causes significant burden to patients' and caregivers' lives. *Schizophr Danub* **28**, 104–110.
16. **Wilens TE, Biederman J, Faraone SV, et al.** (2003) Patterns of comorbidity and dysfunction in clinically referred preschool and school-age children with bipolar disorder. *J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol* **13**, 495–505.
17. **Carlborg A, Ferntoft L, Thureson M, Bodegard J** (2015) Population study of disease burden, management, and treatment of bipolar disorder in Sweden: A retrospective observational registry study. *Bipolar Disord* **17**, 76–85.

18. Marwaha S, Durrani A, Singh S (2013) Employment outcomes in people with bipolar disorder: A systematic review. *Acta Psychiatr Scand* **128**, 179–193.
19. Judd LL, Schettler PJ, Solomon DA, et al. (2008) Psychosocial disability and work role function compared across the long-term course of bipolar I, bipolar II and unipolar major depressive disorders. *J Affect Disord* **108**, 49–58.
20. Chong HY, Teoh SL, Wu DB et al. (2016) Global economic burden of schizophrenia: A systematic review. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat* **12**, 357–373.
21. McCrone P, Dhanasiri S, Patel A, Knapp M, Lawton-Smith S (2008) Paying the price: The cost of mental health care in England to 2026 [cited February 12, 2016]. http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/Paying-the-Price-the-cost-of-mental-health-care-England-2026-McCrone-Dhanasiri-Patel-Knapp-Lawton-Smith-Kings-Fund-May-2008_0.pdf
22. Kennedy JL, Altar CA, Taylor DL, Degtjar I, Hornberger JC (2014) The social and economic burden of treatment-resistant schizophrenia. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* **29**, 63–76.
23. McDonagh MS, Dana T, Selph S, et al. (2017) *Treatments for Schizophrenia in Adults: A Systematic Review*. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
24. Fountoulakis KN, Vieta E (2008) Treatment of bipolar disorder: A systematic review of available data and clinical perspectives. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol* **11**, 999–1029.
25. Pfammatter M, Junghan UM, Brenner HD (2006) Efficacy of psychological therapy in schizophrenia: Conclusions from meta-analyses. *Schizophr Bull* **32**(Suppl 1), S64–S80.
26. Swartz HA, Swanson J (2014) Psychotherapy for bipolar disorder in adults: A review of the evidence. *Focus (Am Psychiatr Publ)* **12**, 251–266.
27. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2016) Bipolar disorder in adults. Quality standard [QS95]. and guidelines NICE; [cited December 12, 2018]; <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs95/chapter/Quality-statement-4-developmental-Psychological-interventions>.
28. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2016) Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults. Quality standard [QS80]. NICE; [cited December 12, 2018]; <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs80/chapter/Quality-statement-2-Cognitive-behavioural-therapy>.
29. Reilly S, Planner C, Hann M, et al. (2012) The role of primary care in service provision for people with severe mental illness in the United Kingdom. *Baradaran HR, editor. PLoS One* **7**, e36468.
30. Amos A (2012) Assessing the cost of early intervention in psychosis: A systematic review. *Aust New Zeal J Psychiatry* **46**, 719–734.
31. Desmedt M, Vertriest S, Hellings J, et al. (2016) Economic impact of integrated care models for patients with chronic diseases: A systematic review. *Value Health* **19**, 892–902.
32. Abdul Pari AA, Simon J, Wolstenholme J, Geddes JR, Goodwin GM (2014) Economic evaluations in bipolar disorder: A systematic review and critical appraisal. *Bipolar Disord* **16**, 557–582.
33. Shields G, Davies L, Buck D, Elvidge J, Hayhurst K (2017) A systematic review of cost-effectiveness evaluations of psychological therapies for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. PROSPERO CRD42017056579. [cited March 3, 2018]. http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42017056579.
34. Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (2007) NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED) Handbook 2007 [cited December 18, 2015]. <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/pdf/nhseed-handbook2007.pdf>.
35. Husereau D, Drummond M, Petrou S, et al. (2013) Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) statement. *BMJ* **346**, f1049.
36. OECD (2018) Prices - Inflation (CPI) - OECD Data 2018 [cited August 7, 2018]. <https://data.oecd.org/price/inflation-cpi.htm>.
37. OECD (2018) Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) Data 2018 [cited August 7, 2018]. <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CPL#>.
38. Haddock G, Barrowclough C, Tarrrier N, et al. (2003) Cognitive-behavioural therapy and motivational intervention for schizophrenia and substance misuse. 18-month outcomes of a randomised controlled trial. *Br J Psychiatry* **183**, 418–426.
39. Barton GR, Hodgekins J, Mugford M, et al. (2009) Cognitive behaviour therapy for improving social recovery in psychosis: Cost-effectiveness analysis. *Schizophr Res* **112**, 158–163.
40. McCrone P, Craig TKJ, Power P, Garety PA (2010) Cost-effectiveness of an early intervention service for people with psychosis. *Br J Psychiatry* **196**, 377–382.
41. Patel A, Knapp M, Romeo R, et al. (2010) Cognitive remediation therapy in schizophrenia: Cost-effectiveness analysis. *Schizophr Res* **120**, 217–224.
42. van der Gaag M, Stant AD, Wolters KJK, Buskens E, Wiersma D (2011) Cognitive-behavioural therapy for persistent and recurrent psychosis in people with schizophrenia-spectrum disorder: Cost-effectiveness analysis. *Br J Psychiatry* **198**, 59–65.
43. Crawford M, Killaspy H, Barnes T, et al. (2012) Group art therapy as an adjunctive treatment for people with schizophrenia: A randomised controlled trial (MATISSE). *Health Technol Assess* **16**, iii-iv, 1–76.
44. Karow A, Reimer J, König HH, et al. (2012) Cost-effectiveness of 12-month therapeutic assertive community treatment as part of integrated care versus standard care in patients with schizophrenia treated with quetiapine immediate release (ACCESS Trial). *J Clin Psychiatry* **73**, e402–e408.
45. Hastrup LH, Kronborg C, Bertelsen M, et al. (2013) Cost-effectiveness of early intervention in first-episode psychosis: Economic evaluation of a randomised controlled trial (the OPUS study). *Br J Psychiatry* **202**, 35–41.
46. Priebe S, Savill M, Wykes T, et al. (2016) Clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of body psychotherapy in the treatment of negative symptoms of schizophrenia: A multicentre randomised controlled trial. *Health Technol Assess* **20**, 1–100.
47. Rosenheck R, Leslie D, Sint K, et al. (2016) Cost-effectiveness of comprehensive, integrated care for first episode psychosis in the NIMH RAISE Early Treatment Program. *Schizophr Bull* **42**, 896–906.
48. Camacho EM, Ntais D, Jones S, et al. (2017) Cost-effectiveness of structured group psychoeducation versus unstructured group support for bipolar disorder: Results from a multi-centre pragmatic randomised controlled trial. *J Affect Disord* **211**, 27–36.
49. Lam DH, McCrone P, Wright K, Kerr N (2005) Cost-effectiveness of relapse-prevention cognitive therapy for bipolar disorder: 30-month study. *Br J Psychiatry* **186**, 500–506.
50. Lenert L, Sturley AP, Rapaport MH, et al. (2004) Public preferences for health states with schizophrenia and a mapping function to estimate utilities from positive and negative symptom scale scores. *Schizophr Res* **71**, 155–165.
51. Shirowai T, Sung Y-K, Fukuda T, et al. (2010) International survey on willingness-to-pay (WTP) for one additional QALY gained: What is the threshold of cost effectiveness? *Health Econ* **19**, 422–437.
52. Neumann PJ, Cohen JT, Weinstein MC (2014) Updating cost-effectiveness — The curious resilience of the \$50,000-per-QALY threshold. *N Engl J Med* **371**, 796–797.
53. Claxton K, Martin S, Soares M, et al. (2015) Methods for the estimation of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence cost-effectiveness threshold. *Health Technol Assess* **19**, 1–503, v-vi.
54. Boutron I, Tubach F, Giraudeau B, Ravaud P (2004) Blinding was judged more difficult to achieve eliciting willingness-to-pay in nonpharmacologic than pharmacologic trials. *J Clin Epidemiol* **57**, 543–550.
55. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2016) Guide to the methods of technology appraisal 2013 NICE; 2013 [cited August 10, 2018]. <https://www.nice.org.uk/process/pmg9/chapter/foreword>.
56. Nimdet K, Chaiyakunapruk N, Vichansavakul K, Ngorsurachet S (2015) A systematic review of studies eliciting willingness-to-pay per quality-adjusted life year: Does it justify CE threshold? *PLoS One* **10**, e0122760.
57. Connell J, O’Cathain A, Brazier J (2014) Measuring quality of life in mental health: Are we asking the right questions? *Soc Sci Med Pergamon* **120**, 12–20.
58. Mulhern B, Mukuria C, Barkham M, et al. (2014) Using generic preference-based measures in mental health: Psychometric validity of the EQ-5D and SF-6D. *Br J Psychiatry* **205**, 236–243. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24855127>
59. Brazier J (2010) Is the EQ-5D fit for purpose in mental health? *Br J Psychiatry* **197**, 348–349.
60. Subramaniam M, Abidin E, Vaingankar JA, et al. (2013) Impact of psychiatric disorders and chronic physical conditions on health-related quality of life: Singapore Mental Health Study. *J Affect Disord* **147**, 325–330.

61. **Konig H-H, Born A, Gunther O, et al.** (2010) Validity and responsiveness of the EQ-5D in assessing and valuing health status in patients with anxiety disorders. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* **8**, 47.
62. **Hayhurst H, Palmer S, Abbott R, Johnson T, Scott J** (2006) Measuring health-related quality of life in bipolar disorder: Relationship of the EuroQol (EQ-5D) to condition-specific measures. *Qual Life Res* **15**, 1271–1280.
63. **Reininghaus U, Priebe S** (2012) Measuring patient-reported outcomes in psychosis: Conceptual and methodological review. *Br J Psychiatry* **201**, 262–267.
64. **Macpherson R, Pesola F, Leamy M, et al.** (2016) The relationship between clinical and recovery dimensions of outcome in mental health. *Schizophr Res* **175**, 142–147.
65. **Langer AI, Schmidt C, Mayol R, et al.** (2017) The effect of a mindfulness-based intervention in cognitive functions and psychological well-being applied as an early intervention in schizophrenia and high-risk mental state in a Chilean sample: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials* **18**, 233.
66. **Bell CM, Urbach DR, Ray JG, et al.** (2006) Bias in published cost effectiveness studies: Systematic review. *BMJ* **332**, 699–703.
67. **Thorn JC, Noble SM, Hollingworth W** (2013) Timely and complete publication of economic evaluations alongside randomized controlled trials. *Pharmacoeconomics* **31**, 77–85.
68. **Lal S, Adair CE** (2014) E-mental health: A rapid review of the literature. *Psychiatr Serv* **65**, 24–32.