



HELLISH DECISIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS

Commissioning is the current method for allocating delegated resources to the population in England. Only about half of the resources spent in a population flow through the commissioning process as it is at present although with the emerging of specialised commissioning and CCG commissioning this will change.

In England the NHS Rightcare Programme has promoted the use of programme budgeting data and although the programming budgeting data relates only to populations defined by the principal medical condition it at least offers a different way of thinking from the conventional expenditure on “acute” and “community” care.

Too assimilate thinking the Rightcare Programme has produced Commissioning for Value Packs and there are supplementary reports that go into this immature depth. Discussed at the last Hellish Decisions conference is the concept of Within Programme Within System Marginal Analysis, and it is clear that clinicians have to take responsibility for this area of analysis.

Furthermore, as the NHS Atlases of Variation have demonstrated there is such variation between one part of the country and another because of the historical patterns of investment that it would be impossible to make a national decision on the balance of, for example resources for people with asthma, for people with COPD and for people with sleep apnoea.

In addition, within those system budgets there is a need for further allocative decision but here we have the tool called the STAR tool that provides a method for doing that.