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**Does health spending need to outpace GDP per head?**

Abstract. Decisions on health spending depend ultimately on the valuation of human life in the country concerned. Previous attempts in the UK have been linked to the one-size-fits-all “value of a prevented fatality” (VPF), now shown to be based on a fundamentally flawed method. An objective and validated alternative is available in the J-value (J for “judgment”), which addresses the improved life expectancy a treatment offers. The J-value sheds important light on what Man chooses to spend on life-extending measures, allowing lessons to be drawn for the desirable relationship between GDP and spending on health.

**Keywords**: economics, GDP, health, J-value, life expectancy, life quality index

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