

**McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**

Paper 01-3

**Approach to the Measurement
Of Costs (Expenditures) When
Evaluating Health and Social Programmes**

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**The Health and Social Service Utilization Survey 2001
for the
System-Linked Resource Unit (SLRU)
on Health and Social Service Utilization**

**Working Paper Series
01-4**

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INTRODUCTION

The System-Linked Research Unit (SLRU) on Health and Social Service Utilization has developed this Health and Social Service Utilization Survey to capture the types and quantities of health and social services utilized by families. This manual provides documentation of the costing methodology on which the Health and Social Service Utilization Survey 2001 was based. The survey is attached in Appendix A. The layout of this manual has been organized in tabular format and the items are presented in the order that they appear in the survey (i.e., Section 1 to Section 12). The individual items are listed in column 1, the justification and assumptions used in determining the costs of each item are outlined in column 2, and the average cost is presented in column 3.

This document contains a general explanation of the sources used for the costing estimates. Wherever possible, costs were obtained from different geographical locations across Ontario. To preserve confidentiality, the names of the individual contributors are not included unless the information was obtained from public records; however, complete documentation of all sources is archived at the SLRU Unit.

This costing methodology provides a comprehensive list of estimated average health and social service costs across Ontario, including: health and social service provider visits, community support services (paid and unpaid), medical procedures, blood tests, other diagnostic tests, hospitals, emergency services, hospices, and nursing homes, medications (prescription and non-prescription), complementary therapies purchased in Ontario, speciality items purchased in Ontario, transportation costs within Ontario, out-of-province care/assessment (services and transportation costs), and employment and income information. Therefore, it is possible to use this methodology in multiple studies in different settings within Ontario to allow for comparisons across studies.