



## Appendix 1

A decision tree starts with the decision (rectangle) between the two alternatives followed by a circle (a chance node) where alternative events are possible; these are illustrated by branches coming out from chance node, representing the clinical pathways. The branches are ended by triangles representing outcomes. The pathways are mutually exclusive and are characterized by the probabilities; the sum of probabilities following each node is 1.0. Each pathway is associated with health care costs and an outcome (QALY). The expected costs and effects are based on the summation of pathway values weighted by the pathway probabilities.