

A Health System Under Pressure

- Ageing population
- Rising expectations
- Increasing chronic illness
- Rapid growth in medical technologies
- Constrained budget

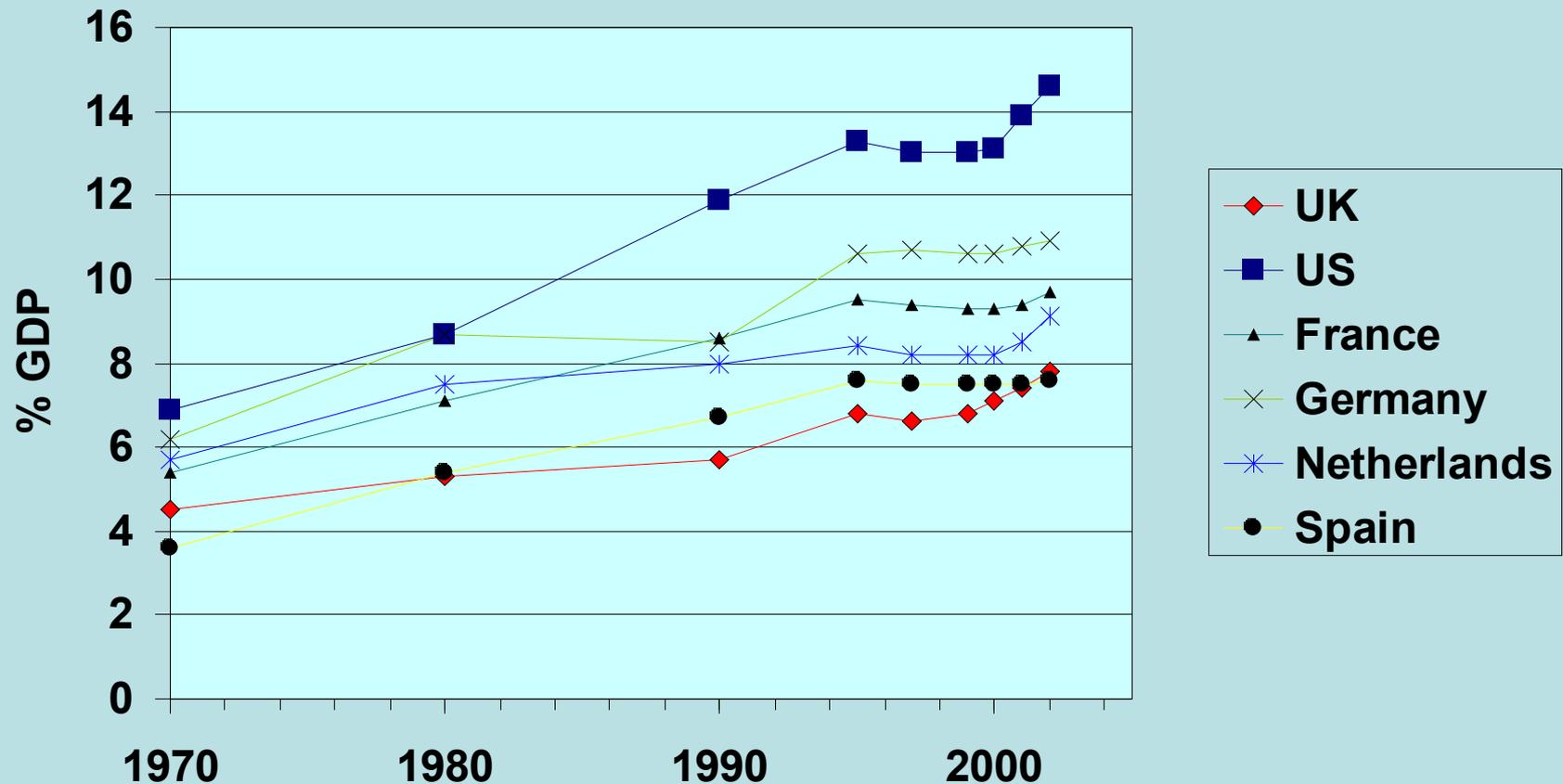
Rising Consumer Expectations

- Comprehensive package of services
- Rapid access to care
- Modern, effective treatments
- Consistent access and quality
- Free at the point of provision

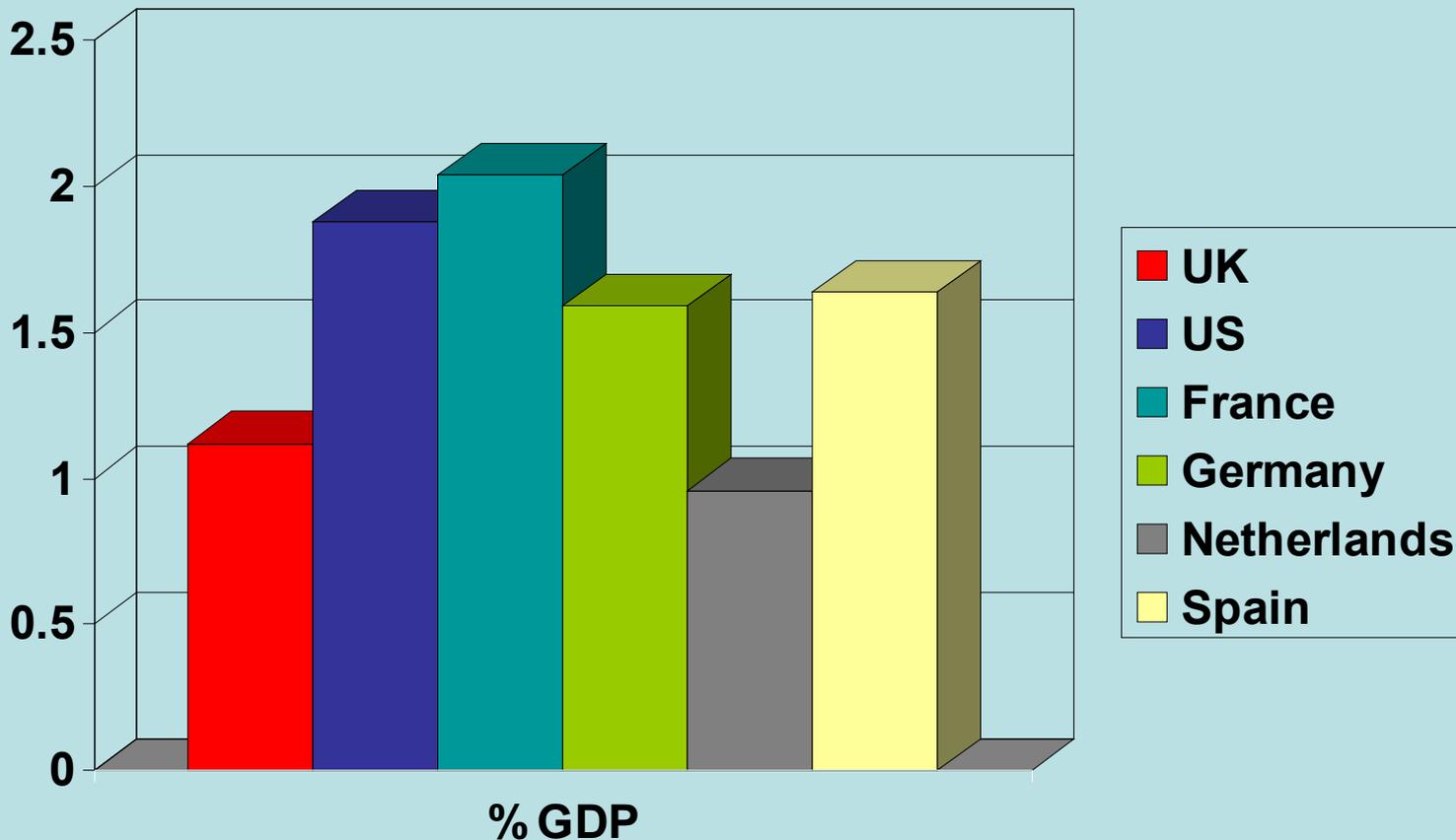
The UK NHS

- Theoretically, any treatment is available in the NHS
- In practice, limitations and geographical variations exist
- Decisions made at national and local levels
- Variation in quality and transparency of these decisions

Total health care expenditure as percent of GDP in OECD countries, 1970-2002

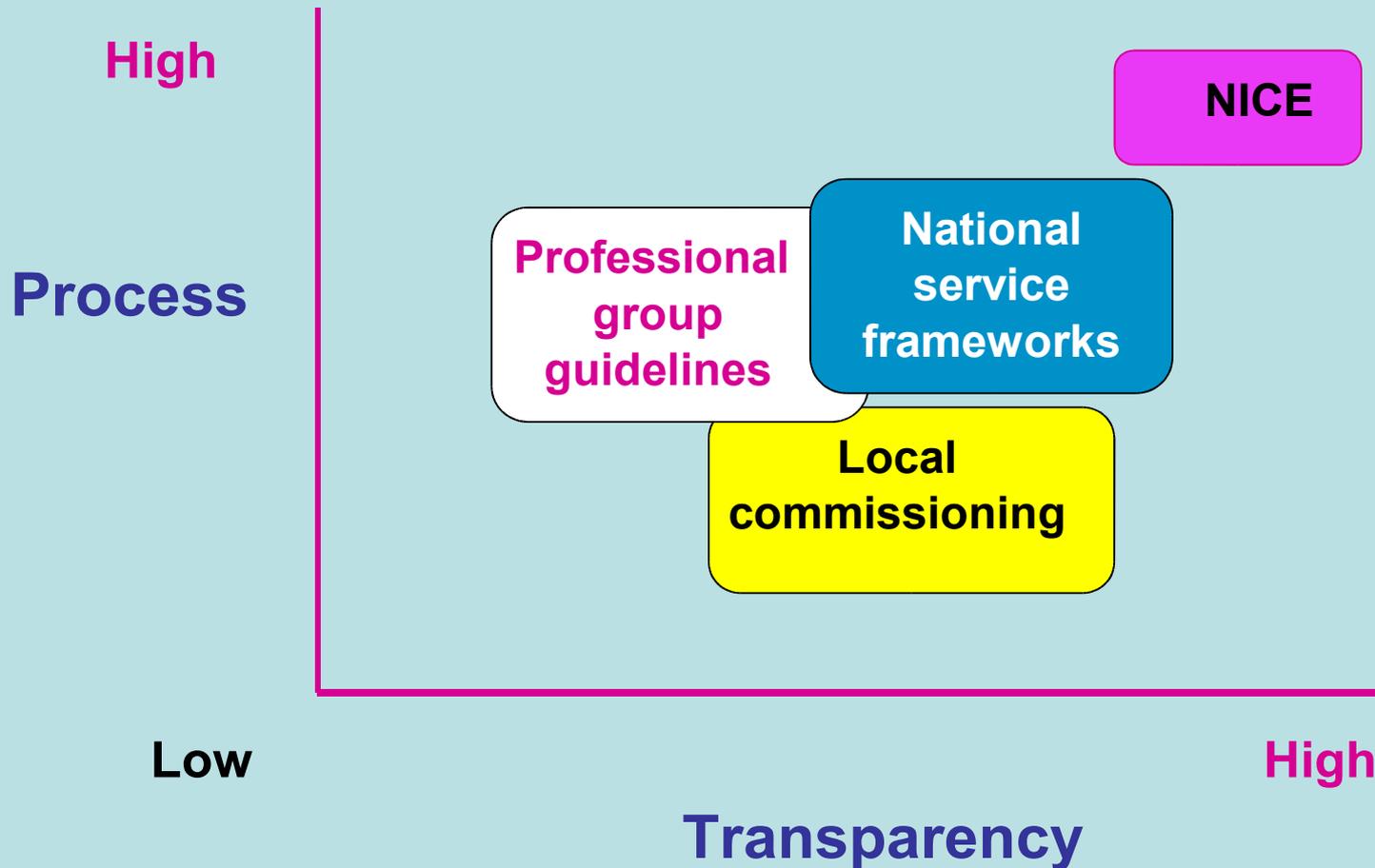


Pharmaceutical expenditure as % GDP (circa 2002)



(source: OHE Compendium, 2004-05, 16th ed.)

UK health policy decisions



NICE Programmes

Clinical and cost effectiveness:

- Technology specific guidelines
- Disease and condition-based guidelines

Safety and efficacy:

- Interventional procedure reviews

Process

- Comprehensive evidence base
- Clinical and patient expert input
- Independent advisory committees
- Genuine consultation
- Regular review

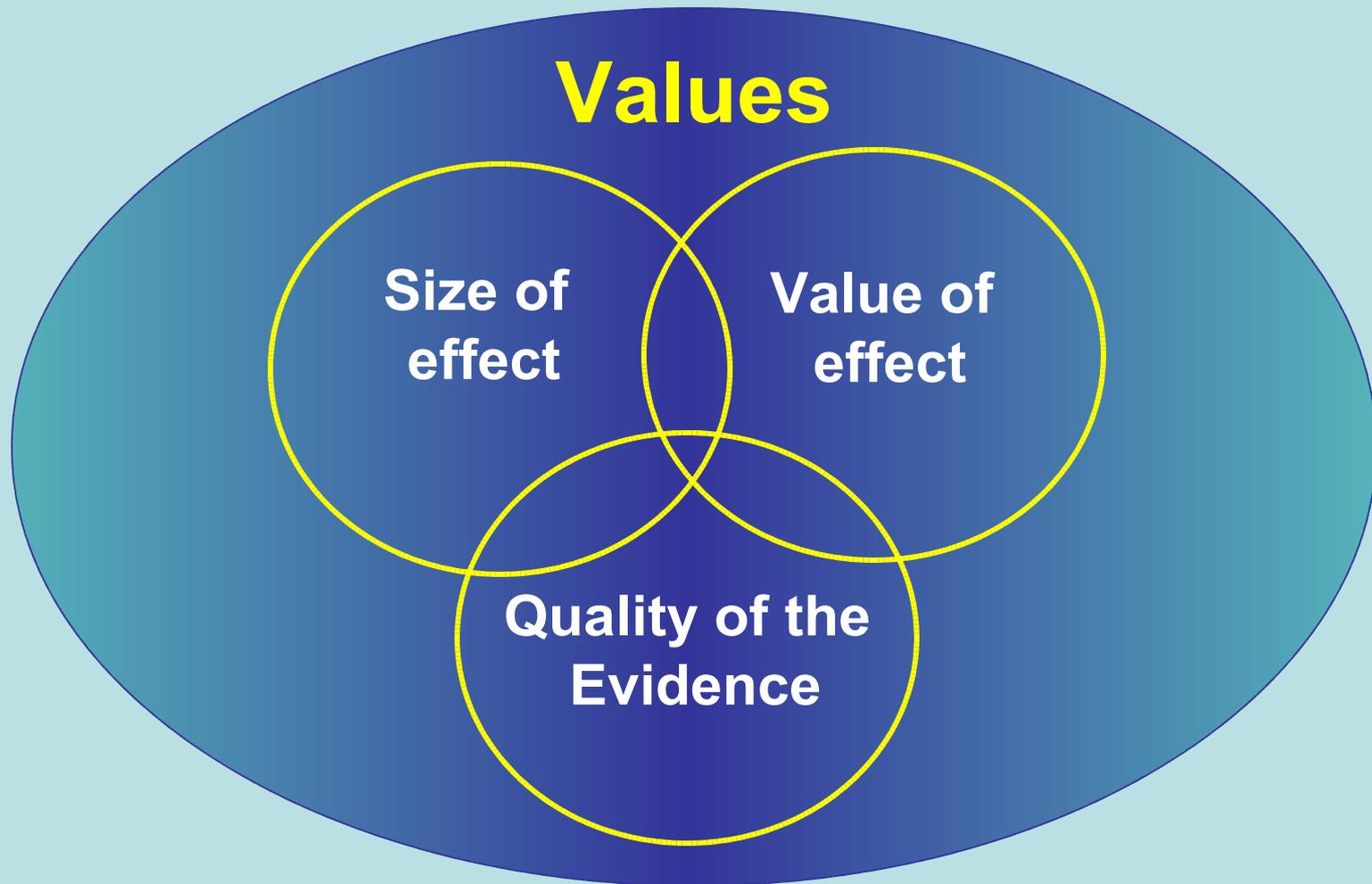
Decision Criteria

- Degree of clinical need
- Balance of benefits and costs
- Effective use of available resources
- Need to encourage innovation

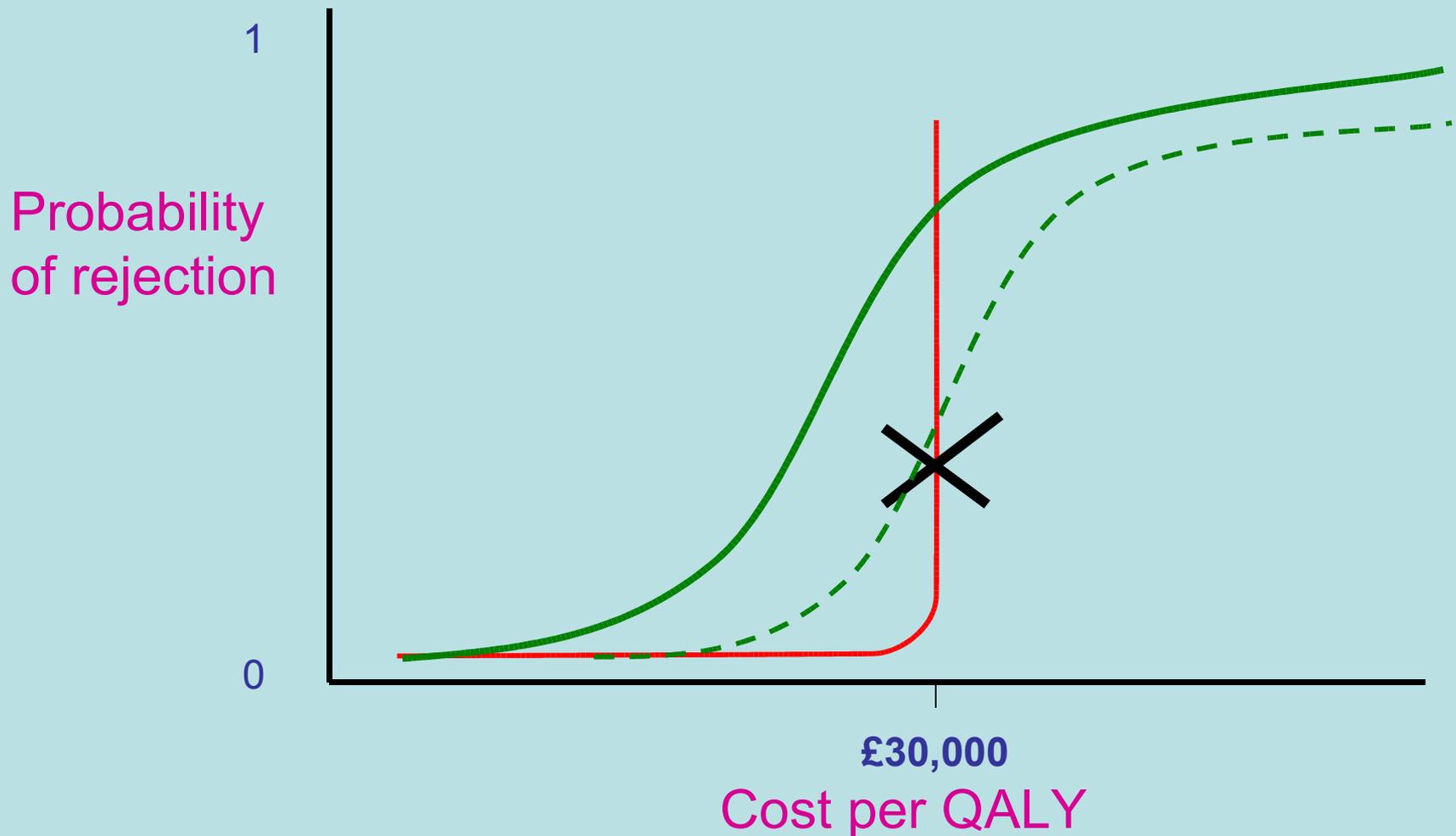
Evidence



Interpretation



Cost Effectiveness



Interpreting Evidence

- Analysis of evidence requires scientific and social value judgments
- Being explicit about values is part of the transparency of decision making
- Values need to be tested with the wider community
- Application, in guidance, needs to be clear

NICE Contribution

- Help resolve uncertainty for patients and health professionals
- Identify good clinical practice using the best available evidence
- Reduce variation in the availability and quality of care
- Create clinical standards for the NHS