That’s a claim!

Key Concepts for thinking critically about social welfare claims

**BEWARE** of claims that have an untrustworthy basis

Many claims about the effects of treatments are not trustworthy. Often this is because the reason (the basis) for the claim is not trustworthy. You should be careful when you hear claims that:

- Too good to be true
- Based on faulty logic
- Based on trust alone

**THINK ‘FAIR’** - and check the evidence from treatment comparisons

Evidence from comparisons of treatments can fool you. You should think carefully about the evidence that is used to support claims about the effects of treatments. Look out for:

- Unfair comparisons of treatments
- Unfairly summarised comparisons of care
- How treatment effects are described

**TAKE CARE** - and make good choices

Good treatment choices depend on thinking carefully about what to do. Think carefully about:

- What your problem is and what your options are
- Whether the evidence is relevant to your problem and options
- Whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages

A good choice is one that uses the best information available at the time. For health choices, this includes using the best available evidence of treatment effects. Good choices don’t guarantee good outcomes, but they make good outcomes more likely.

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