

# Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19

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<b>Table 2. Ethical Values to Guide Rationing of Absolutely Scarce Health Care Resources in a Covid-19 Pandemic.</b>	
<b>Ethical Values and Guiding Principles</b>	<b>Application to COVID-19 Pandemic</b>
<b>Maximize benefits</b>	
Save the most lives	Receives the highest priority
Save the most life-years — maximize prognosis	Receives the highest priority
<b>Treat people equally</b>	
First-come, first-served	Should not be used
Random selection	Used for selecting among patients with similar prognosis
<b>Promote and reward instrumental value (benefit to others)</b>	
Retrospective — priority to those who have made relevant contributions	Gives priority to research participants and health care workers when other factors such as maximizing benefits are equal
Prospective — priority to those who are likely to make relevant contributions	Gives priority to health care workers
<b>Give priority to the worst off</b>	
Sickest first	Used when it aligns with maximizing benefits
Youngest first	Used when it aligns with maximizing benefits such as preventing spread of the virus