Resource Allocation

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What is resource allocation?

- When we cannot meet demand – how should we distribute it?
- Necessarily involve ethics
- PPE, ventilators, ICU beds, vaccines, treatment etc

- How can we decide?
  - Fair process
  - Who will make the decisions? Clinical care v allocation
What is relevant to allocation?

Three main options:
- Treat equally
- Produce best outcomes (efficiency)
- Priority to disadvantage
How should we decide?

- **Tipping point – not too early**
- **Triage**
  - Likely to recover
  - Patients who are dying
  - Those who choose not to be admitted
- **Decide on basis of best value**
- **Tie-breakers?**
- **Regular review**
  - Non-COVID v COVID
Conclusions

- Resource allocation – need a clear and rational approach
- Protect clinicians
- Duty of care to patients
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