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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