

Covid-19 e questioni di giustizia allocativa

Long-term Effects of the Covid-19 Outbreak. A New Phase of Scarce Resources Allocation

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Abstract: The Covid-19 outbreak has advanced rapidly, with more than 62 million global cases reported by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The spread of the virus has placed an unprecedented burden on healthcare settings. Demand for critical care has far outpaced supply, which has increased the need for prioritisation criteria to allocate scarce, life-saving resources. In order to care for the number of Covid patients, hospitals have had to operate at reduced capacity for non-Covid patients. Consequently, many of the latter are denied timely access to the health services, with severe clinical, ethical, social, and economic implications. This paper argues that the need for prioritisation, which overwhelmed medical professionals in the first phase of the outbreak, persists in relation to allocating limited available slots to all non-Covid patients awaiting healthcare assistance. After an overview of the most common methods for scarce resources allocation, the paper argues that in clinical scenarios, in which rationing of scarce resources is a perennial issue, the burden of choice cannot concern healthcare professionals only, and that there must also be a rigorous implementation of medical ethics.

Keywords: Ethics, Scarce Resources Allocation, Covid-19.

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