

Next Steps

- Public comment (web-based)
 - Watch www.stolaf.edu/mnethx or www.bioethics.umn.edu
- Public engagement pilot
 - Small groups (2-3 mtgs each)
 - Metro, rural
- Summer 2008

Small Group Exercises

Exercise A:

Vulnerable Populations

- Disparities in health status and access related to:
 - social/economic factors
 - disabilities or chronic illness
 - geography

Vulnerable Populations

- Social/Economic factors:

- race/ethnic background
- remuneration/ meaningful work
- health and other insurance

- Social/Economic factors:

- institutionalized/ incarcerated
- education
- transportation
- gender

Vulnerable Populations

- Factors related to disabilities or chronic illness:
 - lessons from Katrina
 - geography
 - insurance coverage
 - terminally ill
- Factors related to geography:
 - service limitations
 - financial constraints
 - demographics

Recommendation: Vulnerable Populations

- Treat people fairly, recognizing the moral equality of all
- Promote fairness by
 - Reducing significant differences in mortality and serious morbidity
 - Make reasonable efforts to remove barriers to fair access
 - Promote equitable access for those equally prioritized

Exercise B:

Age: Fair Opportunity to Live a Normal Lifespan

- Age-based rationing – justifications:
 - As a factor in assessment of risk or prognosis for groups or individuals
 - Not particularly controversial
 - As a special moral justification based on “fair innings” or special obligations owed to youth/elders
 - Rarely justified and controversial
 - Should it apply in severe pandemic?

Age: Fair Opportunity to Live a Normal Lifespan

- MN not alone in considering age
- Depends on broad public agreement
- Panel generally agreed on children before adults
- Panel split on younger adults before older

Large Group Exercise

Exercise C: Key Workers

- Who are they?
- We depend on them; their roles support critical infrastructures
- Many are taking risks on behalf of us all

Recommendation: Key Workers

- Not all key workers prioritized at same time
 - High risk of flu-related mortality with good response
 - High occupational exposure
 - Irreplaceable
 - At-risk in service to others
- Key workers prioritized for most but not all resources (vents)

Implications

- Some key workers aren't at the front of the line
- Directs resources to those key workers who need them most
- Directs some resources at the same time to those in the general public who are at high risk

For more information

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