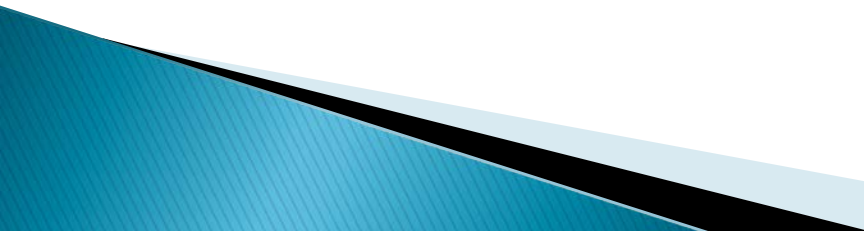


DUTIES TO OLD AND YOUNG: IS ASYMMETRY IN THE ALLOCATION OF HEALTHCARE ETHICALLY JUSTIFIED?

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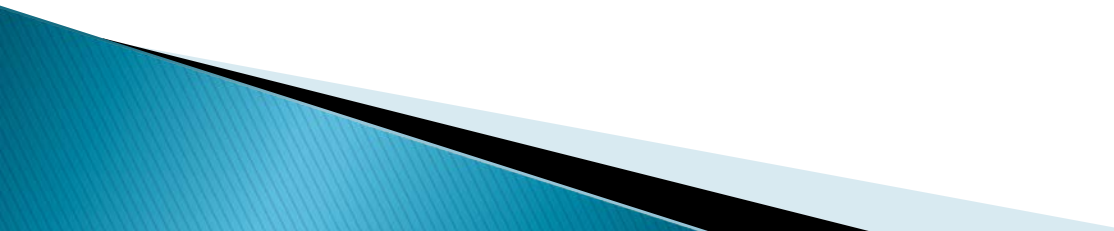


▶ *3 Questions*

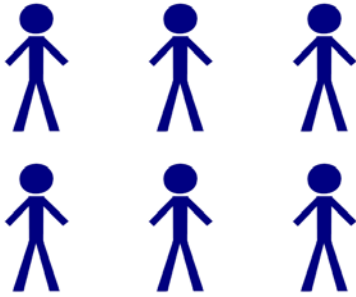
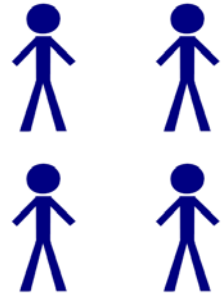
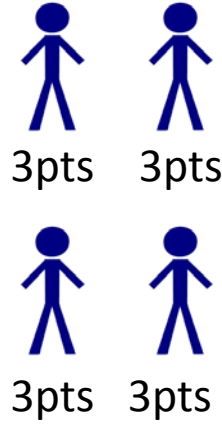
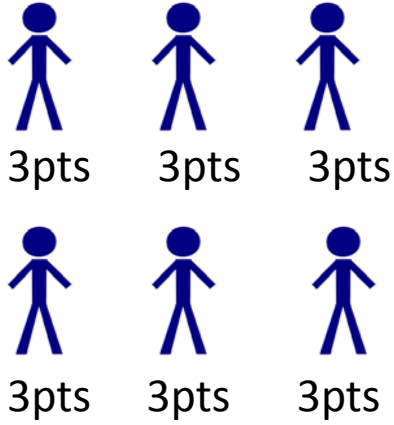
When allocating scarce hc resources:

- Does chronological age matter?
- Does future life expectancy matter?
- Does the type of health care we are distributing change the answer we give?

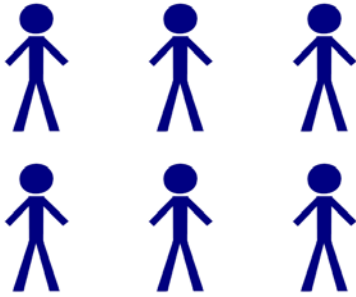
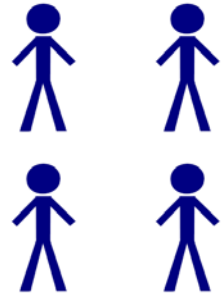
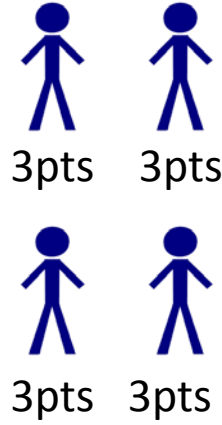
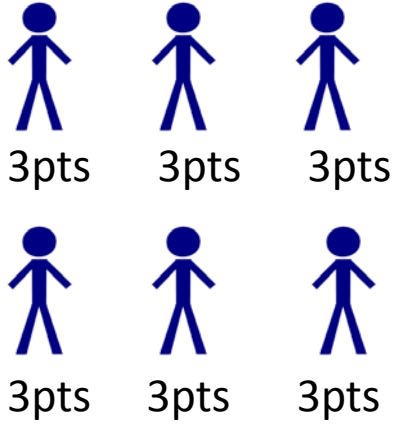
▶ *3 Tradeoff Scenarios*

- Advise a community on how to allocate its limited health care resources
 - 12 pts to distribute among 20 members
 - 10 members are old & 10 are young
- 









Tradeoff 1: Allocating Preventive Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Healthy Over Next 10 Years		
Will Become Sick Over Next 10 Years	 <p>3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts</p>	 <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p>

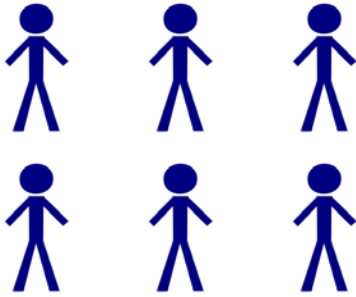
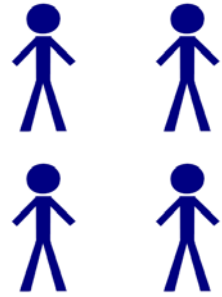
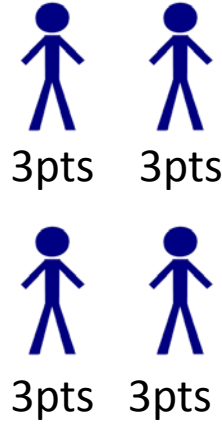
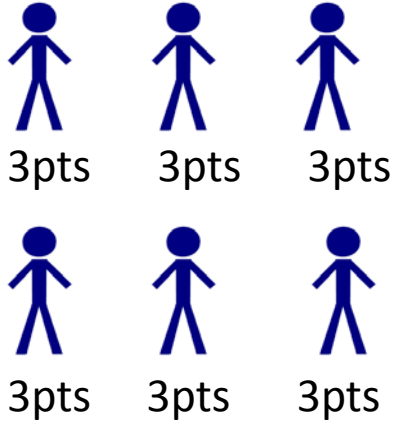
Tradeoff 2: Allocating Lifesaving Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive Over Next 10 Years		
Will Die Over Next 10 Years	 <p>3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts</p>	 <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p>

Tradeoff 3: Allocating Lifesaving vs QL-Enhancing Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive		
Will Die	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts
Will Maintain QL		
Will Have Lower QL	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts








Tradeoff 1: Allocating Preventive Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Healthy Over Next 10 Years		
Will Become Sick Over Next 10 Years	 <p>3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts</p>	 <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p> <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p>

▶ *4 Choices:*

- Equal Health: 3 old & 1 young
- Equal Shares: 2 old & 2 young
- Priority to the Young: 0 old & 4 young
- Priority to the Old: 4 old & 0 young

Equal Shares

	Young	Old
Will Remain Healthy Over Next 10 Years		
Will Become Sick Over Next 10 Years	 3pts 3pts  3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts  3pts  3pts 3pts 3pts

▶ *Arguments for Equal Shares:*

1. *Consequentialist Arguments:* Badness of pain for people of all ages
2. *Deontological Arguments:* Equal worth & dignity of people of all ages

▶ *Arguments for Equal Shares:*

3. Equal Shares Over Equal Health

- *Time Slice: Requires Equal Shares*
- *Whole Life: Allows Unequal Shares*

Problem w/ Whole Life: Unequal treatment does not equalize over time for everyone

▶ *Arguments for Equal Shares:*

4. Reply to Asymmetry Arguments:

Argument: Health might be considered an achievement for which adults are partly responsible but children are not

Reply: In tradeoff-1, the power to prevent disease rests solely w/ the person allocating points

▶ *Arguments for Equal Shares:*

5. Reply to Asymmetry Arguments:

Argument: It's sad, but acceptable, when an older person becomes sick from natural causes

Reply: It does not follow that it is sad, but acceptable, when an older person becomes sick as a result of being denied preventive treatment







▶ *Arguments for Equal Shares:*

6. Reply to Asymmetry Arguments:

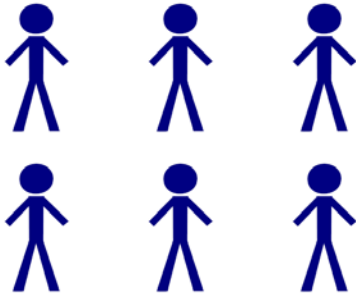
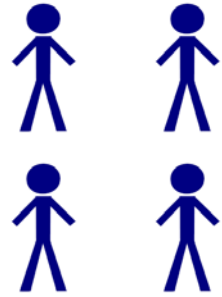
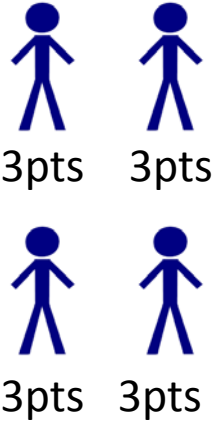
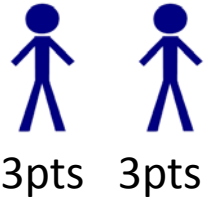


Argument: Saving the old from one disease just means they will get another

Reply: In wealthy nations, preventive care to the young may go to very sick children at high risk of becoming sick

Equal Shares

	Young	Old
Will Remain Healthy Over Next 10 Years		
Will Become Sick Over Next 10 Years	 3pts 3pts  3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts  3pts 3pts 3pts

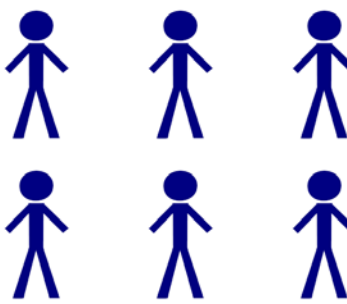





Tradeoff 2: Allocating Lifesaving Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive Over Next 10 Years		
Will Die Over Next 10 Years	 <p>3pts 3pts</p>  <p>3pts 3pts</p>	 <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p>  <p>3pts 3pts 3pts</p>

▶ *4 Choices:*

- Equal Survivors: 3 old & 1 young
- Equal Shares: 2 old & 2 young
- Priority to the Young: 0 old & 4 young
- Priority to the Old: 4 old & 0 young

Tradeoff 2: Allocating Lifesaving Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive Over Next 10 Years		
Will Die Over Next 10 Years	 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts
	 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts

▶ *Equal Shares:*

1. Reply to Asymmetry Arguments:

Argument: People are entitled to a fair share & the young have not had a fair share

Replies:

- ▶ If we are entitled to a fair share of *life*, society has a duty to give us a fair share...
- ▶ If we are entitled to a fair share of lifesaving *resources*, this should depend on resources used, not years lived...

▶ *Equal Shares:*

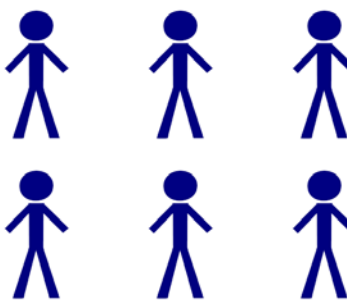






2. *Reply to Asymmetry Arguments:*

Argument: Saving the young maximizes utility since they have more happy, productive years ahead to live









Replies:

- ▶ The worth of persons does not depend on their happiness
- ▶ Even if happiness matters in extreme cases, utilitarians cannot consistently apply QL only in extreme cases

Equal Shares

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive Over Next 10 Years		
Will Die Over Next 10 Years	 3pts 3pts  3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts  3pts  3pts 3pts 3pts

Tradeoff 3: Allocating Lifesaving vs QL-Enhancing Care









	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive		
Will Die	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts
Will Improve QL		
Will Have Lower QL	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts

▶ *Hybrid Approach*

Symmetry: Equal shares

Asymmetry: Different treatments

Tradeoff 3: Allocating Lifesaving vs QL-Enhancing Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive		
Will Die	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts
Will Maintain QL		
Will Have Lower QL	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts

▶ *Arguments for the hybrid view:*









1. *Argument for equal shares (given previously)*

▶ *Arguments for the hybrid view:*

2. *Argument for prioritizing different types of health care for young & old*

- ▶ *Younger Person:* Living out the stages of life is a goal that has *not* been accomplished
- ▶ *Older Person:* Living out the stages of life is a goal that *has* been accomplished

Tradeoff 3: Allocating Lifesaving vs QL-Enhancing Care

	Young	Old
Will Remain Alive		
Will Die	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts
Will Maintain QL		
Will Have Lower QL	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts	 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts 3pts

▶ *Age vs Life Expectancy*

Outliers may reason differently

- ▶ A young person w/ a short life expectancy may prefer QL-enhancing treatment
- ▶ An old person w/ a long life expectancy may prefer life-extending treatment



▶ *Conclusions*

- ▶ Asymmetry is not justified when allocating **preventive care** btwn old & young
 - ▶ Asymmetry is not justified when when allocating **lifesaving care** btwn old & young
 - ▶ Asymmetry is justified when choosing btwn **lifesaving v. QL-enhancing care** for young & old
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