

CAMH a4r Resource Allocation Process Prompt Tool



a4r

Accountability for reasonableness
in resource allocation



This prompt is a reminder of the ideal *process conditions* in resource allocation. Use this tool to develop and guide your process for decision making, consciously considering the ethical dimensions of your work, and including the four conditions whenever possible. Consult with Ethics whenever needed.

Adapted from Daniels, N. & Sabin, J. (2002). *Setting Limits Fairly: Can We Learn to Share Medical Resources?* New York: Oxford University Press.
'CLEOS' adopted from Russell, B. (2008). An integrative and practical approach to ethics in everyday health care. *Risk Management in Canadian Health Care*, 10(2), 9–13.

Relevance

Our rationale must be based on reasons that we can all agree are relevant to the context. Start with our touchstone planning principles:

- Protect patient safety.
- Enhance quality of work life.
- Promote our academic mission.
- Fulfill our fiscal accountabilities.
- Contribute to system competency.

Some further principles to consider:

Justice, Fairness & Equity: Are we ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities? Are we treating people and groups fairly? Are we providing people with ways to openly express their opinions? Are we considering the social determinants of health?

Diversity: Are we accommodating, protecting and supporting differences, including religious, cultural, political and other differences, among people and groups?

Consider CLEOS factors as needed – clinical, legal, ethical, organizational, systemic

Publicity & Engagement

Our decisions and their rationale must be made publicly available whenever possible.

Consider transparency: Are we communicating options and decisions, and the rationale behind these, to all involved stakeholders? Are we doing this in an accurate, timely and understandable way to assist in their decision making?

- Who we engage and how we enable their engagement?
- How do we make our decisions public?
- How do we make our publicly shared information accessible and understandable to all?

Appeals & Revision

We must offer a way to appeal or challenge our decisions and be open to revising them when we receive new information.

- What process can we put in place to enable appeals or challenges to our resource allocation decisions?
- How do we go about using new information or arguments to revise our decisions?
- How will we evaluate our decisions to be certain other options are not better?

Adherence

We must introduce methods for ensuring the first three conditions are regularly met.