

Response

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Teacher Response: order of treatment When faced a dilemma of deciding on the order of priority for several patients to potentially receive scarce life-saving medical treatment after a natural disaster, I will use the criteria of determining who would benefit the most of medical care in determining their order of care.

Of the cases presented, I will prioritize the thirty year old mother of two young children who is just out of jail for defrauding retirees. One may question why I prioritize a criminal in scarce life-saving medical treatment. My reasoning would be that she has two young children as dependents who need her to survive. If the mother will perish, no one will take care of the children and the children will also become casualties. The mother is equivalent to three full lives. If I would be questioned about her criminal record, my reply would be it is not my lot to judge people or punish people but rather to heal.

My second priority is the six year old kid who will be blind and unable to walk if he survives. Now again, I may be asked why not prioritize a child over a criminal. Again, my criteria of the order of treatment who would benefit the most of the medical care and not emotion. Our emotion may dictate us that a child should come first. But he would still not benefit that much of the medical care because he would still go blind and unable to walk even if he survive compare to the mother who has two dependents. This explains why the child is next to my order of priority of care.

The sixty year old surgeon is the least of my priority. I may be asked that I should prioritize the surgeon because he or she is charitable. Again, it is not my lot to assess people but rather on who would benefit the most of medical care. The surgeon has already lived a full life compared to the mother who

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has two child dependents and the kid who has his full life ahead even if he would be disabled.