

L’allocazione delle risorse sanitarie durante la pandemia da Covid-19: un’analisi comparativa dei documenti della SIAARTI e del CNB

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Allocating Medical Resources during Covid-19 Pandemic: A Comparative Analysis of the Documents of SIAARTI and CNB

Abstract: In Italy, during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Italian Society of Resuscitators and Pain Therapists (SIAARTI) and the Italian National Bioethics Committee (CNB) published ethical guidance on the allocation of scarce intensive care resources. In this paper, we outline and compare these documents in detail, highlighting differences and similarities. In particular, we argue that major differences exist with respect to the principles and values underpinning the documents and the normative allocation criteria proposed. Conversely, similarities can be traced with respect to a functional rather than substantial endorsement of the age criterion, the importance of transparency, and the consideration over healthcare professionals’ responsibility regarding allocative decisions. In conclusion, we argue that Italy has lacked a comprehensive and publicly-accountable policy articulating principles and operational criteria geared to strengthen the “ethical preparedness” of the country in dealing with current and possible future public health emergencies.

Keywords: Allocation of scarce medical resources, Covid-19, SIAARTI, CNB, Age criterion.

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