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Social Values and Health Priority Setting

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Aims

- ❑ Not a literature review!
- ❑ To provoke further thought on values outlined in background paper
- ❑ To explore the range of interpretations of the values

Process values: Transparency

How might we define transparency?

- ❑ Everyone knows ***who*** makes decisions
- ❑ Everyone knows ***who*** makes decisions ***and by what processes***
- ❑ Everyone knows ***who*** makes decisions, ***by what processes*** and ***for what reasons***



Basic
transparency of
institutional
arrangements

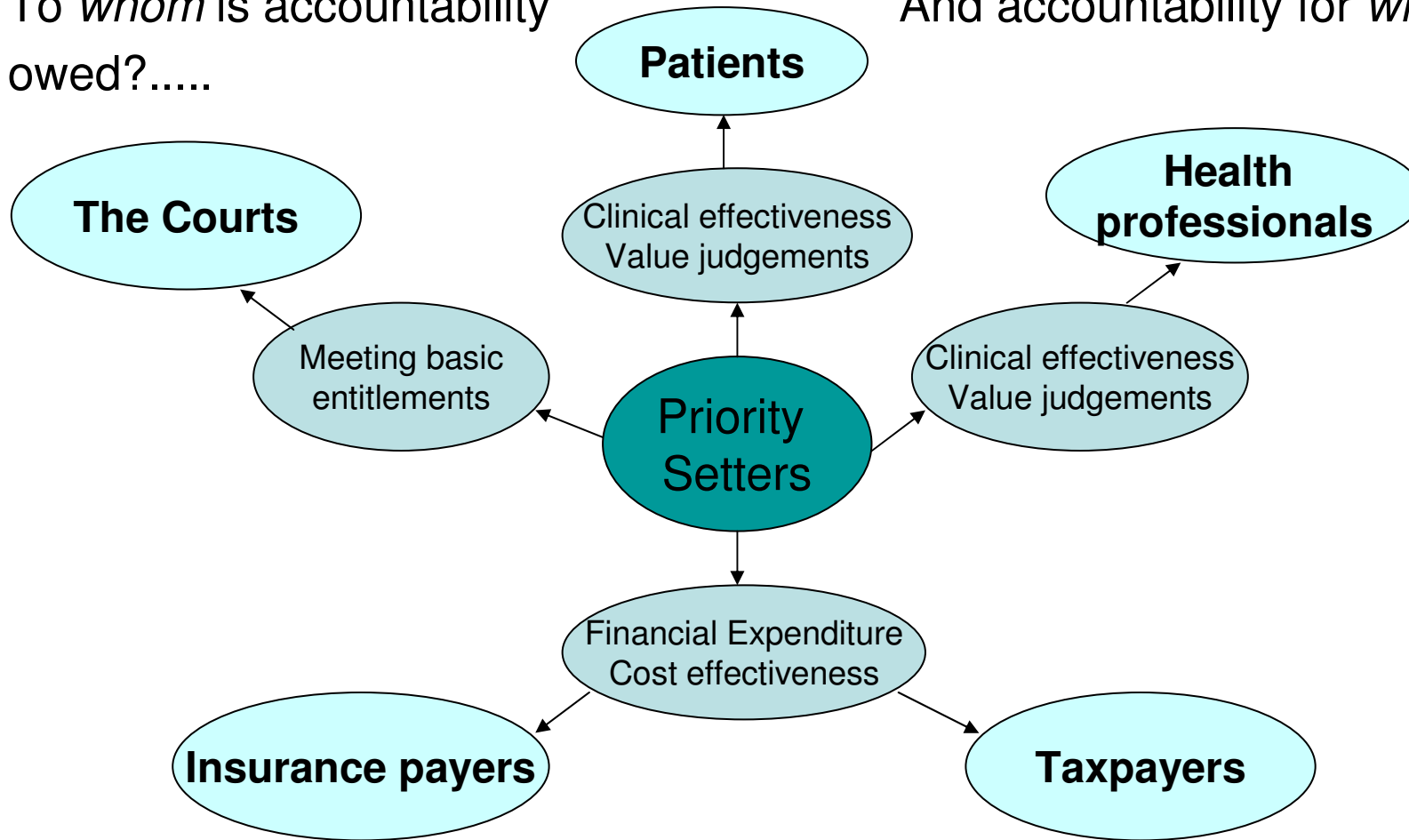
Transparency of
institutional
decision making
processes

Full transparency of
institution, processes
and criteria

Process Values: Accountability

To *whom* is accountability owed?.....

And accountability for *what*?



Process Values: Participation

Who might participate?

Patients, health professionals, experts, taxpayers, insurance payers, citizens....

Why value participation?

- If people have their say, then they can't complain at the result
- Decisions are more legitimate if different interests can contribute
- It improves the quality of decisions
- Those whose money is being spent should have a say in what it's used for



The more of these reasons apply, the more we move from consultation to control.

Content Values: Clinical Effectiveness

How to define clinical effectiveness?

- Any intervention showing ***some evidence*** of benefit
- Only interventions that ***definitely*** provide benefits
- Only interventions that ***definitely*** provide benefit to patients, ***and are better than available alternatives***

Uncertain,
lack of
evidence, but
available –
solidarity?



Certainty, good
evidence but
patients may
wait

Patients take
a risk –
autonomy?



Minimal risk
to patients –
paternalist?

Content Values: Cost-Effectiveness

How important is cost-effectiveness, relative to other values?

- ❑ It's just ***one factor amongst many*** and should not have privileged status
- ❑ It's ***one of the most important factors*** but not always decisive – however it might be unusual for other values to over-rule it
- ❑ It's ***of primary and decisive importance***

Strong focus on individual-related values, eg. dignity



Less focus on individual-related values, more on collective ones, eg. opportunity costs

Who benefits can be important



Doesn't matter who benefits – QALY is a QALY is a QALY

Content Values: Justice/Equity

What might justice/equity require in priority setting?

- ❑ All patients with the ***same condition*** ***should be treated the same***

Health is the only relevant factor



Treats all individual patients the same; expresses *health* solidarity;

- ❑ Some patients should be ***'positively' prioritised*** because of their status – eg. vulnerable populations, the young, the poor, people with dependents

Factors other than health should be taken into consideration



May consider people other than patient; may express *socio-economic* solidarity;

- ❑ Some patients should be ***'negatively' prioritised*** because they are responsible for their condition

Factors other than health should be taken into consideration

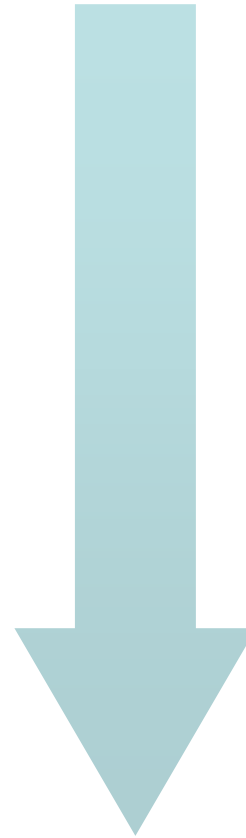


Focus on individual; autonomy important; may factor in capacity to benefit.

Content Values: Solidarity

What might solidarity require?

- ❑ All have access to '**comprehensive care**', however defined
- ❑ All have access to a '**basic package**', however defined
- ❑ **Entirely private arrangements**



**Full social
solidarity**

Partial solidarity

Weak solidarity

Content Values: Autonomy

How important is autonomy?

Autonomy as personal *preference* and personal *responsibility*

- ❑ We should give ***low priority to individual preferences***, and ***individual responsibility should not condition access*** to treatment.
- ❑ People should be able to exercise ***some preferences over some care***
- ❑ People are ***responsible for spending their own money*** and for their own lifestyle choices



Priorities
set
collectively

Individualistic
focus for
priorities

Some questions.....

- ❑ What other values? Eg. dignity, compassion ...??
- ❑ How do process and content values relate to one another?
- ❑ What might lead some countries to prioritize some values over others?