The Influenza Pandemic Questionnaire (Australian Version)

Thank you for helping us to find out what public opinion is on this very important issue.

We would like you to complete this questionnaire, as the more people who take part in this study, the more confident we can be that our results reflect the true views of the Australian public.

We want to know your views on a difficult, make-believe situation. This is not a real situation, but it is possible it could occur in the future.

THIS IS NOT A TEST.

THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

Please return this completed questionnaire using the reply envelope to:

The Influenza Pandemic Questionnaire Study Coordinator,
Intensive Care Unit,
Concord Repatriation General Hospital,
Hospital Road,
Concord, NSW 2074.

Please read the following make-believe situation and answer all the questions.

The Make-Believe Situation

Imagine that Australia has been affected by a fast spreading influenza outbreak (influenza is also called the flu).

Many people have become sick. Schools and some businesses have closed.

This is the worst influenza (flu) crisis that Australia has ever seen.

The government has declared the situation a major disaster.

Your local hospital is overloaded with patients, and is unable to cope.

There are 30 patients in the hospital who are critically ill. All 30 patients will need to be transferred to an intensive care unit (ICU) to have the best chance of surviving.

THE PROBLEM

The problem is there are only 20 beds in the intensive care unit. This means that 10 out of the 30 patients will miss out on being transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU).

These 10 patients will probably not survive without intensive care.

Patients cannot be moved to other hospitals as every hospital is in the same crisis situation.

THE DECISION

A decision needs to be made on which 20 patients get transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) and which 10 patients do not get transferred.

The 10 patients who do not get transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) will be cared for on a normal hospital ward.

There are 6 possible ways to decide which patients should be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU).

These 6 ways or methods are listed on the next page. Please read these carefully and answer the questions that follow.
The Make-Believe Situation continues...

THE CHOICES

A. Use a first come, first served approach to decide
What does this mean? The first patients to arrive at the hospital get to be transferred to the intensive care unit. Once the intensive care unit (ICU) is full, those arriving later miss out.

B. Let a senior doctor decide
What does this mean? A senior doctor will decide which patients get transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU), and which patients don’t. The senior doctor would take into account a patient’s health and chances of surviving when deciding.

C. Use a set of criteria or rules that have been determined by the Health Department to decide
What does this mean? A set of criteria or rules is used to decide which patients can be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU). Patients who do not meet the criteria set out in the rules will not be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU).

D. Use random selection to decide
What does this mean? Patients are picked at random to be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU), such as drawing a person’s name from a hat.

E. Use a patient’s ability to pay to decide
What does this mean? Patients who can afford to pay for their treatment, or who have private insurance will be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU). Those who cannot afford to pay, or who do not have insurance will miss out.

F. Use the importance of the patient to decide
What does this mean? Patients who are thought to be more important to the functioning of society will be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU). Those who are thought to be not as important will miss out. For example, an engineer who maintains the city’s water supply may be more likely to be transferred to the intensive care unit than a person who does not work.

Please answer the following questions.

Questions

Now that you have read the make-believe situation and the 6 methods to decide which patients get transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU), please answer the following questions.

Remember, this is a major disaster situation. There are not enough resources to treat everyone.
Questions continue...

For Question 1 place a cross in the box, that matches the answer you think is the best, like so ✗

Question 1: Which of the 6 methods do you think is the best way to decide which patients get to be transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) in a major influenza pandemic disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone? (Choose only 1 option)

- A  Use a first come, first served approach to decide
- B  Let a senior doctor decide
- C  Use a set of criteria or rules that have been determined by the Health Department to decide
- D  Use random selection to decide
- E  Use the patient’s ability to pay to decide
- F  Use the importance of the patient to decide
- G  I’m not sure which answer I think is the best

For Questions 2 to 10 draw a circle around the number that matches the answer you think is the best, like so

Exremely unfair
Neither unfair or fair
Extremely fair

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

Examples: If you think the best answer is “extremely unfair” then circle 1.
If you think the best answer is “extremely fair” then circle 7.
If you think the best answer is “unfair”, but not “extremely unfair”, then circle 2 or 3.
If you think the best answer is “fair”, but not “extremely fair”, then circle 5 or 6.

Question 2: How fair do you think it is to use a first come, first served approach to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

Extremely unfair
Neither unfair or fair
Extremely fair

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

Question 3: How fair do you think it is for a senior doctor to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

Extremely unfair
Neither unfair or fair
Extremely fair

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

Question 4: How fair do you think it is to use a set of criteria or rules from the Health Department to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

Extremely unfair
Neither unfair or fair
Extremely fair

1  2  3  4  5  6  7
### Questions continue...

**Question 5:** How fair do you think it is to use random selection to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

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**Question 6:** How fair do you think it is to use a person’s ability to pay to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

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**Question 7:** How fair do you think it is to use a person’s importance to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

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**Question 8:** How fair do you think it is to treat a young person (for example, aged 20 years old) ahead of an older person (for example, aged 90 years old) in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

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**Question 9:** How fair is it to use a person’s chance of surviving to decide who gets treated in a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone?

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**Question 10:** In a disaster, when there are not enough resources to treat everyone, how fair do you think it is not to treat a person because they have a long term (also called chronic) medical condition which makes them less likely to survive?

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Questions continue...

For Questions 11 to 15 place a cross in the box, like so ☑️ that matches your answer.

**Question 11:** Which state do you live in?
- [ ] Australian Capital Territory
- [ ] New South Wales
- [ ] Northern Territory
- [ ] Queensland
- [ ] South Australia
- [ ] Western Australia
- [ ] Victoria
- [ ] Tasmania

**Question 12:** Which age group do you belong to?
- [ ] 18 to 35 years old
- [ ] 36 to 40 years old
- [ ] 41 to 45 years old
- [ ] 46 to 50 years old
- [ ] 51 to 55 years old
- [ ] 56 to 60 years old
- [ ] 61 to 65 years old
- [ ] 66 to 70 years old
- [ ] 71 to 75 years old
- [ ] 76 to 80 years old
- [ ] 81 to 85 years old
- [ ] 86 years or older

**Question 13:** Are you male or female?
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female

**Question 14:** Do you live in a city, a town, or a country area?
- [ ] City (population more than 10,000 people)
- [ ] Town (population between 250 to 10,000 people)
- [ ] Country, rural or outback area (population less than 250 people)

**Question 15:** What is your current employment status?
- [ ] Retired
- [ ] Not employed in paid work
- [ ] At school, college, or university
- [ ] Employed part-time or casual
- [ ] Employed full-time

Question 16 asks about your experiences with hospitals or healthcare. Please place a cross in either the “Yes” or “No” box, like so ☑️

**Question 16:**
- I have been a patient in a hospital or emergency department (ED)
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
- I have had family or close friends admitted to hospital or managed in an emergency department (ED)
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
- I have been a patient in an intensive care unit (ICU)
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
- I have had family or close friends admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU)
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
- I work in a healthcare profession
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
This is the end of the questionnaire.

Please return this completed questionnaire, using the reply envelope, to the address on the front page. If you have any comments to make about this questionnaire please write them down in the space below.

Thank you again for your help.

Comments: