Supplementary Material: Preliminary Questions

**Preliminary Question 1** (From, Nord *et al*. (1995a), ‘Maximizing Health Benefits Vs Egalitarianism: An Australian Survey of Health Issues.’ *Social Science and Medicine* **41**(10): 1429-1437.)

In our society there is not enough money to give all patients all the health care they want. There is also a shortage of donor organs for patients in need of organ transplantations. In practice, this means that some patients get treated more quickly than others. It can also mean that some patients receive certain kinds of expensive treatment while others do not. In both cases we may say that some patients are given *priority* over others.

On what basis should priority be given?

1. Among patients who are suffering equally, some priority should be given to those who will be helped most from treatment.
2. Among patients who are suffering equally, those who can become a little better should have the same priority as those who can become much better.

Which of these views comes closest to your own?

**Preliminary Question 2** (From, Nord, E. (1999), *Cost-Value Analysis in Health Care*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.)

Imagine two illnesses A and B. They are equally common and cause the same degree of suffering. Treatment will help patients with illness A *a little*, while it will help patients with illness B *considerably*. The cost of treatment is the same in both cases. There is insufficient treatment capacity for both illnesses, and an increase in funding is suggested. Two different views are then conceivable:

1. Most of the increase should be allocated to treatments for illness B, since the effects of these are greater.
2. The increase should be divided evenly between the two groups, on the grounds that they suffer equally and are equally entitled to treatment.

Which of these views comes closest to your own?