

Health care users should be prepared for making severe choices

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Abstract

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, a Japanese study group on bio-medical ethics issued a statement concerning patient selection in using a respirator. I would like to point out some discrepancies in this statement. First, patient selection should be considered not only when using a respirator, but in the treatment at large. Second, the responsibility of patient selection should be shared by the public, not by health care workers alone. Health care users should be prepared to make severe choices to prevent the breakdown of the health care system.

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