

Reviewer's report

Title: Pandemic influenza preparedness: an ethical framework to guide decision-making

Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2006

Reviewer: Ezekiel Emanuel

Reviewer's report:

General

This is thin on substance. There is a long list of values, but the list of values is inadequate for 3 reasons:

1) incomplete as it does not take into account other key values that might play a role --first come first serve, save the most life years, fair innings, etc.

2) does not tell how to balance these difference values when the compete which they will, and we need some indication other than saying it will be left to a process and

3) has things which are not really values--eg trust is the result of a fair process not a value in this context that provides substance to a decision.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None