

## **Case Study 1**

### **Rationing in Life threatening Situations**

Consider the following incident adapted from a report by Jerry Bishop in Wall Street Journal, December 10, 1981, (p. 33)

A young woman was rushed to an emergency room with internal bleeding.

After 25 days the patient left the hospital alive and well. The cost: \$358,942.88, of which the patient's out of pocket cost was 17.50 (for telephone calls). This may be the largest bill ever run up by a patient illness episode.

Factor VIII inhibition, the women's ailment, is usual; fewer than 50 cases like hers are found in the medical literature (and the drug to combat it accounted for 333,858 of the women's bill).

The methods by which the bill was paid are going to raise hospital bills for thousands of other patients and their health-insurance carriers. Medicaid covered the patient, and the total reimbursement for her care was limited in this case to a total of 12,600.

Questions:

- Was the right decision made in the case?
- Are there alternatives?
- Should cost have been considered?
- Who should decide these questions?

Please search the web and provide an overview of Factor VIII inhibition. What are some other cost-cutting strategies for the future?

Please provide a PowerPoint presentation of this case.