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Norman Daniels

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Norman Daniels : Just Health Care (Studies in Philosophy and Health Policy) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Health Care (Studies in Philosophy and Health Policy):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important book in bioethicsBy KeishaImportant book in bioethics, very influential philosopher. Great reference book for bioethics, philosophy of medicine, medical humanities, and just health care, specifically.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A classic ethical analysisBy Victoria

BucklandDaniels' book from 1985 is one of the classic works on the ethics of health care and the distribution of health care. His approach follows in the footsteps of John Rawls and emphasizes the need to take care of the least well off in our society. Increasing medical costs have spawned a number of attempts to rein in medical spending, from the Oregon Health Plan to HMOs to the (at the time of this writing) new Massachusetts health plan. This book lays a good foundation for examining these plans from an ethical standpoint. [links to the table of contents above](#), and this does provide a clear picture of the breadth of the work. For readers interested in specific recommendations about health care -- whether heart transplants should be funded, for example -- you will need to look elsewhere. Daniels is very clear that this book is about an ethical framework, and specific recommendations will depend upon how fully implemented that framework is. This was my own frustration with the book. Even so, it is a valuable resource and well worth the read.

How should medical services be distributed within society? Who should pay for them? Is it right that large amounts should be spent on sophisticated technology and expensive operations, or would the resources be better employed in, for instance, less costly preventive measures? These and others are the questions addresses in this book. Norman Daniels examines some of the dilemmas thrown up by conflicting demands for medical attention, and goes on to advance a theory of justice in the distribution of health care. The central argument is that health care, both preventive and acute, has a crucial effect on equality of opportunity, and that a principle guaranteeing equality of opportunity must underly the distribution of health-care services. Access to care, preventive measures, treatment of the elderly, and the obligations of doctors and medical administrations are fully discussed, and the theory is shown to underwrite various practical policies in the area.

About the Author Norman Daniels is Mary B. Saltonstall Professor and Professor of Ethics and Populations Health at Harvard School of Public Health. A member of the Institute of Medicine, a Fellow of the Hastings Center, a Founding Member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and of the International Society for Equity in Health, he has consulted for organisations, commissions, and governments, including the United Nations, WHO, and the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine, on issues of justice and health policy. Dr Daniels is the author of numerous books. He has received fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and held a Robert Wood Johnson Investigator's Award as well as a Rockefeller Foundation grant for the international adaptation of benchmarks.