

Weaving necessity: propositions

1. Necessity as a formalised decision criterion is of far greater use when accounting for health care coverage decisions than when actually making them (*this dissertation*).
2. The societal weighing of a health care technology happens through weaving together necessity argumentations in favour of or against coverage, which is essential for a well-legitimised decision (*this dissertation*).
3. Health care coverage decisions do not only determine the coverage status of a health care technology but they also specify what good care entails, for example through providing recommendations (*this dissertation*).
4. Health Technology Assessment agencies should exchange appraisal reports as well as cost-effectiveness data because appraisal reports from different agencies may lean on similar or different lines of argumentation and both situations offer opportunities for mutual learning (*this dissertation*).
5. A conscientious deliberation is a crucial step in the health care coverage decision-making process, not only to formulate a decision but to 'test' it against alternative decision outcomes, which is to be encouraged (*this dissertation*).
6. Institutionalisation of an appeals procedure as conceived by the Accountability for Reasonableness framework is difficult in a system where the final decision is made by the Minister of Health.
7. Public controversy over health care coverage decisions should be followed by a careful (re-) examination of the argumentations offered in the decision as well as the public debate.
8. Increasing patient input is often prioritised by health care organisations but not always an unequivocally good idea: it is expensive (both financially and timewise) for all parties and should only be attempted after establishing the how and why of the proposed input.
9. Scientists are unable to 'just give the facts', as the construction of such facts involves many normative choices; instead, they should actively and explicitly provide argumentations.
10. What constitutes a good life warrants far more public debate and what constitutes a finished ('voltooid') life, far less.
11. "Civilization is the limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities."
– Mark Twain