Ethical Dilemmas in Selecting Health Care Technologies in Israel
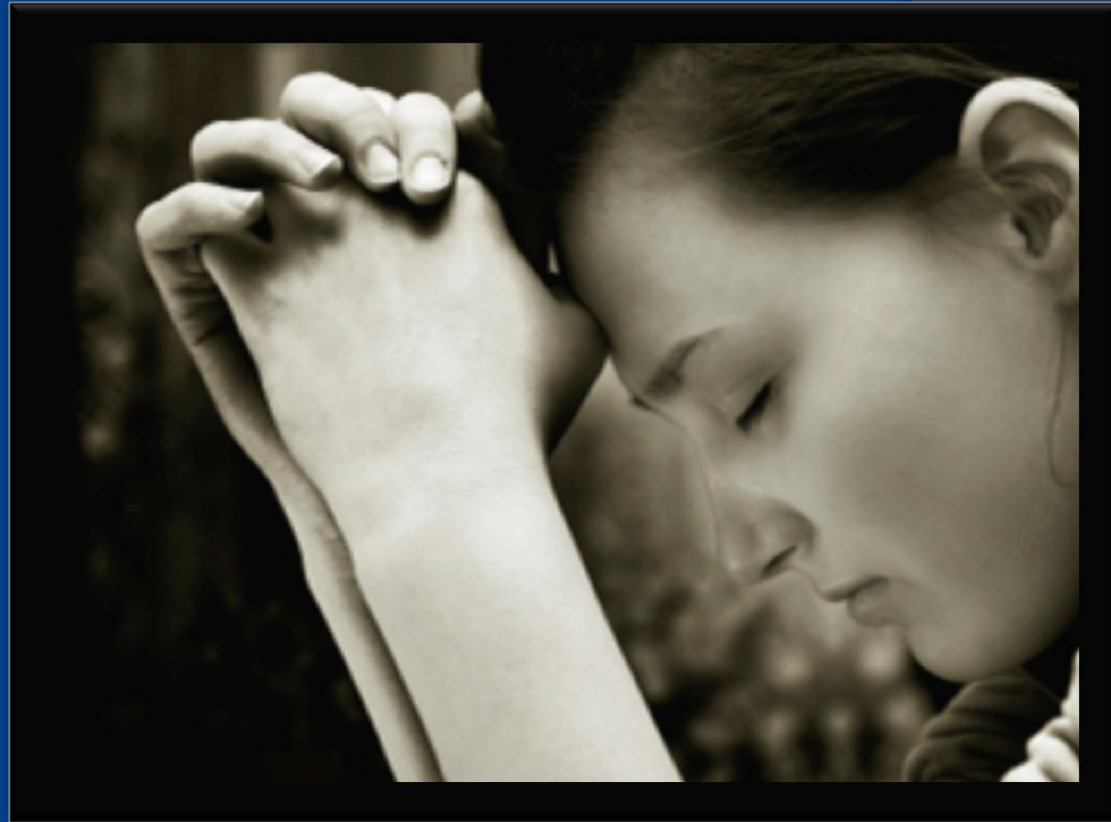
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"*I have been suffering from psoriasis for the past 12 years. The disease erupted after the death of my only daughter, 11 years old , of leukemia.*

Today I would like to ask you:

Who decides that a few weeks or months prolonging the life of a terminal patient is more important than 30 years of normal life for a psoriasis patient?"

To be or not to be?

Less for

Many

More for

Few

3

To be or not to be?

|	EZETROL® (ezetimibe) / CRESTOR® rosuvastatin calcium	Herceptin® trastuzumab
Indications:	Treatment for hypercholesterolemia and high risk of a cardiovascular event	Adjuvant treatment for HER2-positive early breast cancer with a high risk of recurrence
Patients (p):	28,000	350
Cost/p (NIS)	2,366	195,834
Overall cost (million NIS)	66,235 mil	68,542
Benefits :	Reducing cardiovascular events, quality of life, long term	Reducing recurrence, life saving, short term

Outline

The Israeli Health Care System Characteristics

The National Health Insurance Law
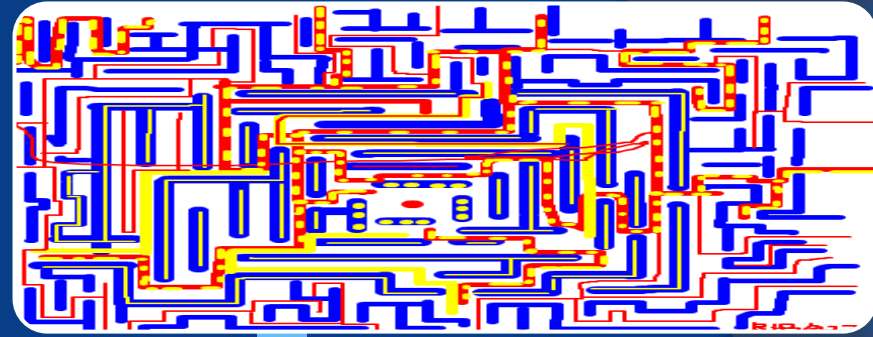
Ethical dilemmas in decision-making

Health Technology Assessment

The Process of Updating the National List of Health Services

The Israeli Health Care System Characteristics

Inherent shortage of resources

Accelerated development of health technologies

- **pharmaceuticals, medical devices, medical procedures and information technology**

Rising demand for advanced technologies - by

- **patients and health care providers**

System mix -

- **public and private services**

National Health Insurance Law

The National Health Insurance Law NHIL

"The N.H.I.L. is based on the principles of justice, equality and solidarity…"

The National Health Insurance Law – NHIL
Selected Components

Universal coverage (mandatory)

Freedom of choice between the four Health Funds

Defined and universal package of health benefits – the National List of Health Services (NLHS)

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

HTA is a multidisciplinary process that summarizes information about:

medical	social	economic	ethical issues

related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner

http://www.eunetha.net/Pub/HTA/

The Process of Updating the NLHS (National List of Health Services)

Process	Timeline
Submission of candidate technologies for inclusion	January-March

- Sorting, categorizing, gathering data

Process	Timeline
HTA	April-July

- Population needs, safety, efficacy, effectiveness
- Economic assessment

Process	Timeline
Literature review & Expert consultations & Sub-Committee	Aug.-Sept.

- National Councils, Professional Unions, Health Funds

Process	Timeline
Medical Technology Forum - MOH	October

- Priority – High/ Medium/ Low

Process	Timeline
Public National Committee Deliberations	Nov-Dec

- Recommendations for inclusion

The Process of Updating the National List of Health Services

The Israeli HTA Model

1. Population Need's assessment

2. Medical Assessment

3. Economical Assessment

4. Overall assessment

5. National Policy

6. Legislation

Legal Political

Social Ethical

Shemer & Siebzehner, 1995

The process of updating the NLHS Public National Advisory Committee

Save life

Improve quality of life

Affordability for the individual / society

Selected Principles

Coverage for vulnerable population

Prevent suffering

Coverage for the majority
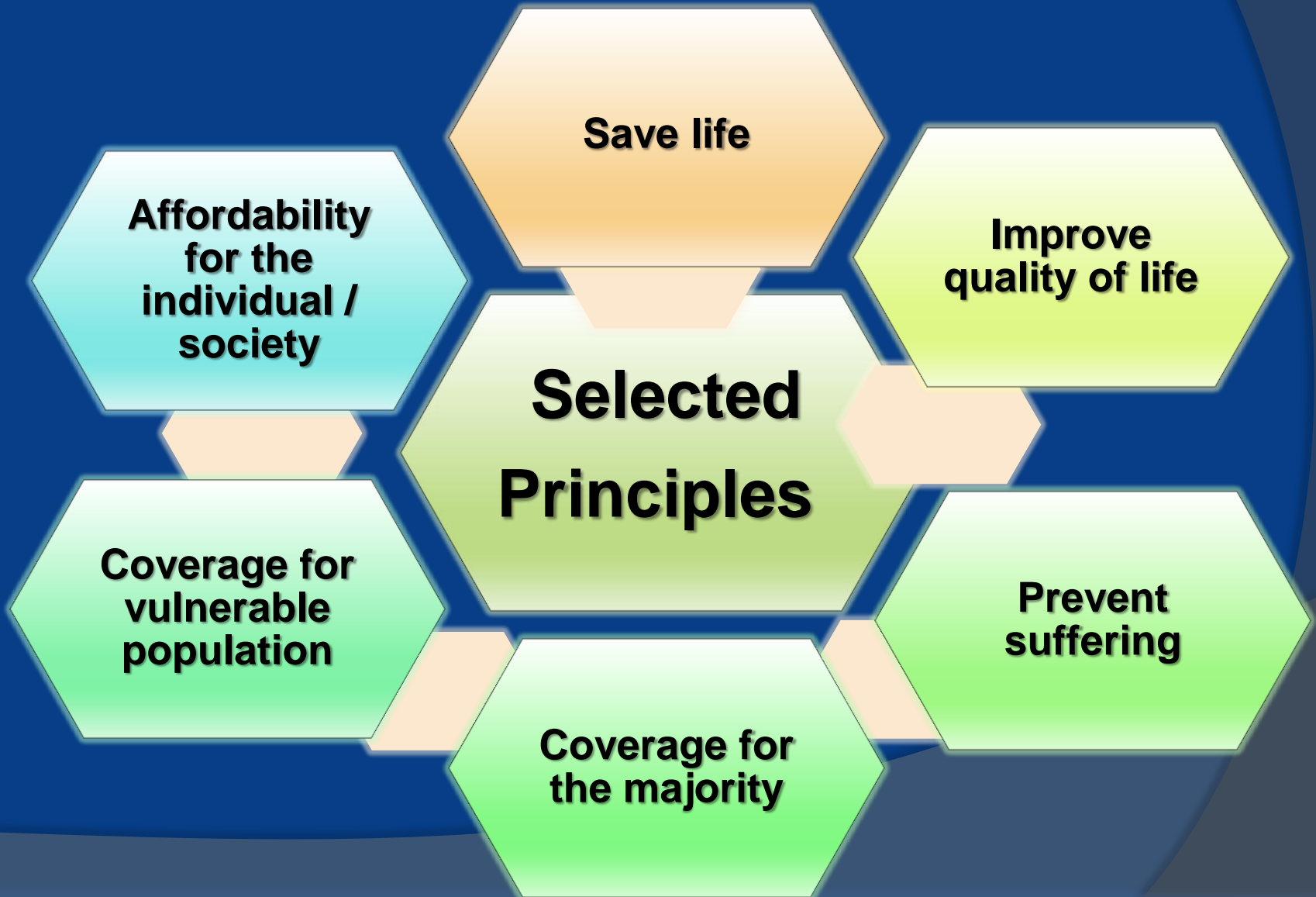
The process of updating the NLHS
Basic premises

Clinical effectiveness

Added value of proposed technology

Perspectives for the future

No discrimination

Budget available covers only 15-25% of proposals
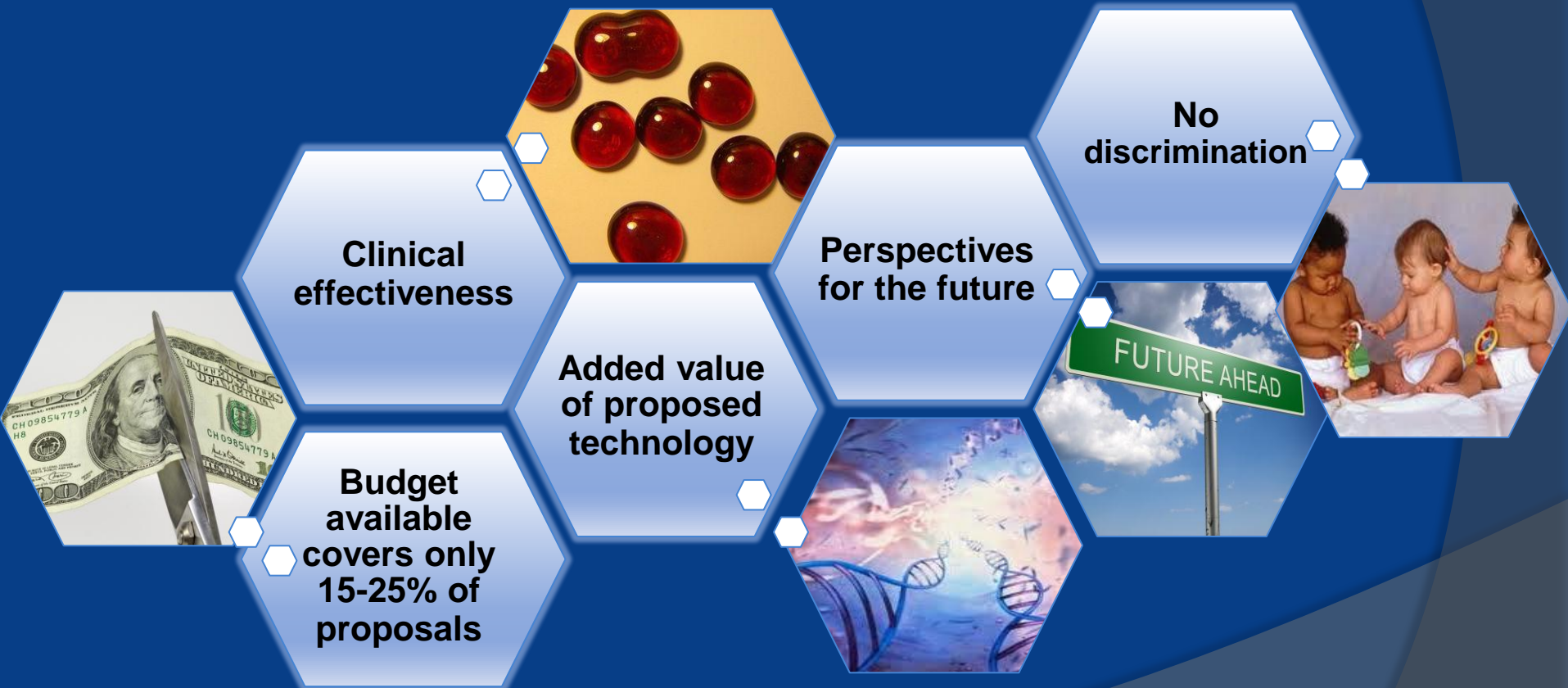
Dilemmas in Decision Making
Ethical Considerations

- Critical ages
- Civil rights
- No discrimination
- Patient Autonomy
- Better future potential
- Defining "vulnerable groups"
- The rule of rescue

Conclusions

Even though the process faces
       many dilemmas, it provides a
       pragmatic model, striking a
       balance among clinical,
       economical, social, ethical,
       legal, technocratic and
       political input in managing
       access to health care

THANK YOU