# Pros and Cons of Prioritizing a Single Criterion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion Being Prioritized</th>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Con</th>
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| Likely to live the longest after the transplant | • Maximizes the number of years when valuable projects, plans, and relationships are pursued.  
• Ensures the greatest number of extra years of life across the total population. | • It is impossible to be 100% certain how long a person will live after a transplant.  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| The sickest                            | • Aids those who are suffering right now.                          | • Ignores needs of those who will become sick.                      
• Leads to people receiving interventions only after their health deteriorates.  
• Likely to lead to fewer extra years of life across the total population.  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| The youngest                           | • Benefits those who otherwise would have had the shortest life.   | • Favors infants over adolescents, yet adolescents already have life plans and projects, as well as developed relationships, all of which will be lost without a transplant.  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| Considered the most valuable or socially useful | • Maximizes the overall benefit—the benefit not only to the recipient of the resource but to all the people the recipient will in turn help or benefit. | • Fails to treat people as moral equals.  
• May result in systematic but unconscious discrimination or bias toward unpopular or vulnerable groups.  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| Not personally responsible for their disease | • Ensures that those who are sick through no fault of their own do not die as a result of bad luck. | • Creates the opportunity for people to possibly misjudge—and penalize—those who are responsible for their disease. May attribute more responsibility for the disease to the person than he or she really had, given the available resources, family experiences, and educational opportunities.  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| Wins a random lottery                  | • Hard to “game” or corrupt the system and so gain an unfair chance at getting the scarce resource.  
• Requires little information about recipients, so it is easy to implement. | • Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| Waited the longest for a liver         | • Requires little information about recipients, so it is easy to implement. | • Ignores other relevant considerations. |
| Other: First-come, first-served system | • Protects existing doctor-patient relationships.  
• Requires little information about recipients, so it is easy to implement. | • Favors wealthy, powerful, and well-connected people since they are more likely to “get there first.”  
• Ignores other relevant considerations. |

### Note: