

HOW TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC LEGITIMACY OF HEALTHCARE RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROCESSES? LESSONS FROM AN ISRAELI CASE STUDY

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OBJECTIVES

The National Health Insurance Law enacted in 1995 stipulates a list of health services to which all Israeli residents are entitled. For the past 20 years, the list has been updated annually, as a function of a predetermined budget, according to recommendations from the Public National Advisory Committee (PNAC), which evaluates and prioritizes candidate technologies. This study assesses the public legitimacy of PNAC's resource-allocation process and draws on this case study to offer general insight for increasing the public legitimacy of such processes worldwide.

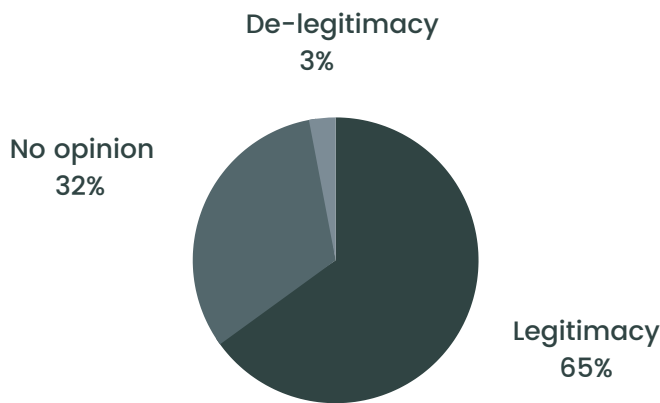
METHODS

A qualitative analysis of public discourse documents about PNAC (articles in the print media, court rulings and parliamentary debates (N=119) was conducted to assess the perceived legitimacy of the PNAC by the Israeli public. Further content analysis of these documents and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders (N=70) revealed the mainstays and threats to its legitimacy. Data analysis for this study was conducted according to the "grounded theory" methodology and using MAXQDA software.

RESULTS

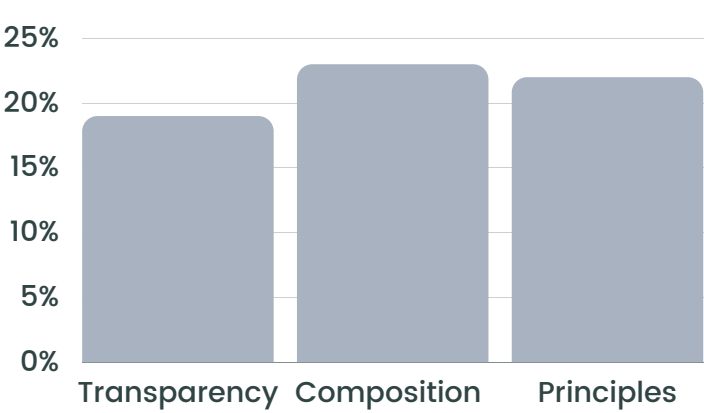
65% of the public discourse documents surveyed expressed support of PNAC's legitimacy. Only 3% included explicit views of PNAC as illegitimate (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Level of legitimacy in surveyed documents



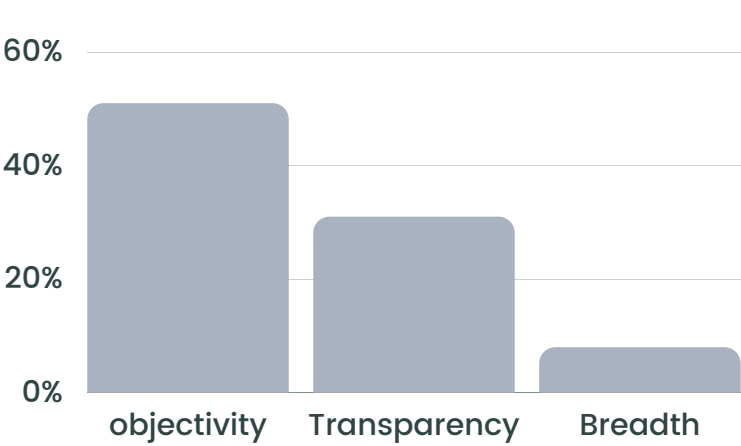
The three major threats to its legitimacy pertain to: (1) the composition of the committee, particularly the lack of patient representatives; (2) its transparency model; (3) its decision-making principles (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Risk factor prevalence in data



Three main factors contribute to its legitimacy, in order of prevalence: (1) its perceived objectivity and professional focus; (2) its relative transparency; (3) breadth and novelty of technology discussed (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Factors contributing to legitimacy



CONCLUSION

To increase its legitimacy, the PNAC should include patient representatives, ensure the timely publication of its discussion transcripts, and incorporate cost-effectiveness analysis in its health technology assessments. This case study thus underscores the significance of inclusivity, transparency, and attendance to value-for-money considerations in healthcare resource allocation processes.

RELATED LITERATURE

Assor, Yael, and Dan Greenberg. 2022. "Public Legitimacy of Healthcare Resource Allocation Committees: Lessons Learned from Assessing an Israeli Case Study." *BMC Health Services Research* 22 (1): 737

Greenberg, Dan, Miriam I. Siebzehner, and Joseph S. Pliskin. 2009. "The Process of Updating the National List of Health Services in Israel: Is It Legitimate? Is It Fair?" *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care* 25 (3): 255–61.