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Patients fail to get potentially beneficial tests, treatments, or subspecialist referrals for many reasons. Sometimes it happens because someone decides that the intervention in question isn't worth the money. Such not-worth-it decisions, which ration medical care explicitly, are the focus of Mark Hall's complex, interdisciplinary, and thought-provoking Making Medical Spending Decisions—must reading for bioethicists who hunger for an institutionally situated discussion of rationing intermediate in abstraction between those that elaborate a grand theory of social justice and those filled with the drama of case-specific narratives.

Rationing decisions can be analyzed in at least two ways. A criterion-centered approach determines what best explains actual not-worth-it decisions and then, typically, offers a putatively better basis for rationing. By contrast, Hall focuses on institutional factors that empower decisionmakers to ration care. Hall focuses on the rationers partly because he thinks that the decisionmakers play a more basic role in rationing than the criteria they use and partly because he thinks that much desultory discussion about rationing criteria can be forestalled by determining who should be making the decisions. Hall takes for granted that already existing institutional arrangements limit feasible changes in the way rationing authority is distributed, so he eschews sweeping abstractions or dogmatic answers about proposed reforms. Instead, he undertakes "a micro-analysis of social institutions" in order to assess the relative strengths, weaknesses, and characteristics of alternative mechanisms for allocating health care resources. Hall's ethical recommendations build on existing arrangements, seek compromise, and tend toward the pragmatic rather than the ideological. His pragmatism leads to an inelegant answer to the question, "who should make medical spending decisions?" "[M]edical spending decisions should be made through a mix of market, democratic and professional mechanisms," he writes, "as they each are best fit for particular dimensions of the problem" (p. 10).

An initial concern one might have with the book is whether Hall's...
The Myriad Dubai is the Best Student Residential Community. An urban-styled student living community, located in the heart of Dubai International Academic City. At The Myriad, we understand that living away from home can be challenging, which is why our aim is to create a comfortable living environment with all the amenities you need to succeed, both academically and socially. We want to break away from traditional, box-like student housing and offer you a holistic community for young individuals; a home away from home.

Academic support. We want to assist you as much as we can throughout your academic journey. The Myriad properties are equipped with a number of facilities to support your studies. Twilight hit the cutie map and rolled off to land on the ground with a thump. She had lost count of how many times it had happened now. Spike called, still lying on the floor. "How come this time travel doesn't work like in 'Wyld Stallyns' Excellent Adventures'? You know, the way they could take as long as they want to go back and change something earlier to help them with whatever they're doing at the moment, as long as they planned to do it in the future," he babbled. "When we go back, there aren't even any past Twilights or Spikes or Starlights from the other times we went back."