

S20/HSS317/Ethics/**Assignment-VI**/7-April-2020

Use the format for submitting assignments uploaded in Moodle. The word limit is 700. Please write clearly. Avoid grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and long winding sentences.

Total points: 10

Pandemics like COVID-19 place extraordinary stress on our healthcare infrastructure. As the disease spreads and the frequency of testing increases, more and more people flock hospitals. Medical professionals are forced to ration medical equipment and services. Questions like ‘Who should get intensive care beds?’ and ‘Who should be allowed use of the limited ventilators available?’ arise constantly even while the makeshift hospitals and mass production of ventilators are underway. Such practical issues in a resource limited scenario have an ethical dimension: Is it morally right for us to deny medical care to some people or allocate essential services in such a way that some people are prioritized over others? In this assignment, assume that you are a Kantian. How would a deontologist construct guidelines for medical practitioners in resource scarce situations who have to decide which patients receive life-saving care and which do not?