**Article title:** Clinical Priority Setting and Decision-Making in Sweden: A Cross-sectional Survey Among Physicians

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**Supplementary file 1**

Table S1: Summary of study results of "Clinical Priority Setting and Decision-Making in Sweden"

| Questions                                                   | Responses                                                                 | Both groups | Group 1 | Group 2 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| **I. CLINICAL PATIENT CARE**                               |                                                                           |             |         |         |
| 1.1. How often do the following statements match the hospital patient care that you are familiar with? |                                                                           |             |         |         |
| 1.1.1. All patients are equally treated.                   | Never (1)                                                                 | 0%          | 0%      | 0%      |
|                                                           | Rarely (2)                                                                | 1%          | 1%      | 1%      |
|                                                           | Somewhat (3)                                                              | 8%          | 4%      | 12%     |
|                                                           | Often (4)                                                                 | 38%         | 36%     | 39%     |
|                                                           | Very often (5)                                                            | 53%         | 58%     | 48%     |
|                                                           | Can't say                                                                 | 1%          | 1%      | 1%      |
| 1.1.2. All resources are distributed according to patients' need. | Never (1)                                                                 | 0%          | 0%      | 0%      |
|                                                           | Rarely (2)                                                                | 4%          | 3%      | 5%      |
|                                                           | Somewhat (3)                                                              | 17%         | 9%      | 25%     |
|                                                           | Often (4)                                                                 | 47%         | 48%     | 45%     |
|                                                           | Very often (5)                                                            | 32%         | 40%     | 25%     |
|                                                           | Can't say                                                                 | 0%          | 0%      | 1%      |
| 1.1.3. All decisions are made in consideration of costs in relation to patients' benefit. | Never (1)                                                                 | 0%          | 0%      | 1%      |
|                                                           | Rarely (2)                                                                | 16%         | 18%     | 13%     |
|                                                           | Somewhat (3)                                                              | 37%         | 33%     | 41%     |
|                                                           | Often (4)                                                                 | 35%         | 38%     | 33%     |
|                                                           | Very often (5)                                                            | 12%         | 12%     | 11%     |
|                                                           | Can't say                                                                 | 1%          | 0%      | 1%      |
| 1.1.4. All patient care is optimal.                        | Never (1)                                                                 | 0%          | 1%      | 0%      |
1.2. How often did you face scarcity of resources in your clinical work during the last six months?

| Frequency               | Never (1) | Rarely (2) | Somewhat (3) | Often (4) | Very often (5) | Can't say |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| At least once per day   | 12%       | 9%         | 15%          |           |               |           |
| At least once per week  | 26%       | 27%        | 25%          |           |               |           |
| At least once per month | 21%       | 25%        | 16%          |           |               |           |
| Less than once per month| 25%       | 25%        | 26%          |           |               |           |
| Until now never         | 11%       | 7%         | 14%          |           |               |           |
| Can't say               | 5%        | 7%         | 4%           |           |               |           |

1.3. How often did you not prescribe/perform a diagnostic/therapeutic measure because of scarcity of resources during the last six months?

| Frequency               | Never (1) | Rarely (2) | Somewhat (3) | Often (4) | Very often (5) | Can't say |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| At least once per day   | 2%        | 1%         | 2%           |           |               |           |
| At least once per week  | 7%        | 8%         | 7%           |           |               |           |
| At least once per month | 11%       | 12%        | 9%           |           |               |           |
| Less than once per month| 34%       | 30%        | 37%          |           |               |           |
| Until now never         | 43%       | 45%        | 41%          |           |               |           |
| Can't say               | 4%        | 4%         | 4%           |           |               |           |

1.4. How do you handle scarcity of resources in your clinical work? Please tick every option that matches.

| Action                                                                 | Very often (5) | Often (4) | Somewhat (3) | Rarely (2) | Never (1) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| I discuss the situation with my colleagues.                            | 70%            | 76%       | 64%          |            |           |
| I discuss the situation with my superior.                              | 52%            | 57%       | 47%          |            |           |
| I put the patient on a waiting list.                                   | 34%            | 36%       | 31%          |            |           |
| I talk to the patient about it.                                       | 33%            | 34%       | 31%          |            |           |
| I send the patient to another hospital within the "landsting".        | 21%            | 26%       | 15%          |            |           |
| I send the patient earlier home.                                      | 26%            | 25%       | 27%          |            |           |
| I send the patient to another department.                              | 15%            | 17%       | 12%          |            |           |
| I refer to Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines.                     | 21%            | 15%       | 28%          |            |           |
| I send the patient to another "landsting".                            | 14%            | 12%       | 16%          |            |           |
| I do not offer all the treatment/diagnostics some patients require.   | 8%             | 6%        | 9%           |            |           |
| I refer to the principles of the ethical platform.                    | 9%             | 4%        | 14%          |            |           |
| I recommend an additional private health insurance.                   | 2%             | 1%        | 3%           |            |           |

1.5 How well do you feel personally prepared to handle scarcity of resources in your clinical work?

| Preparedness            | Very well (5) | Well (4) | Somewhat (3) | Rarely (2) | Never (1) |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Not at all (1)          | 4%            | 3%       | 4%           |            |           |
| Little (2)              | 17%           | 12%      | 21%          |            |           |
| Somewhat (3)            | 39%           | 44%      | 35%          |            |           |
| Well (4)                | 29%           | 32%      | 25%          |            |           |
| Very well (5)           | 8%            | 6%       | 10%          |            |           |
| Can't say               | 4%            | 3%       | 4%           |            |           |

II CLINICAL DECISION MAKING

2.1 How often can you make independent clinical decisions according to your own assessment

| Frequency               | Never (1) | Rarely (2) | Somewhat (3) | Often (4) | Very often (5) | Can't say |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Never (1)               | 0%        | 0%         | 0%           |           |               |           |
| Rarely (2)              | 2%        | 2%         | 1%           |           |               |           |
| Somewhat (3)            | 11%       | 7%         | 15%          |           |               |           |
without being limited?

| Frequency          | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Often (4)          | 43%   | 45%   | 41%   |       |       |
| Very often (5)     | 43%   | 44%   | 42%   |       |       |
| Can't say          | 2%    | 2%    | 1%    |       |       |

2.2 Which of these factors limit your own choices of diagnostic & therapeutic options in your clinical decision making? Please tick every described factor that matches.

| Factor                                                                 | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Local lack of staff per patient                                       | 45%   | 53%   | 39%   |       |       |
| Political directives (e.g. "vårdgaranti", "standardiserade vårdförlopp")| 27%   | 26%   | 27%   |       |       |
| Local lack of diagnostic/therapeutic resources                        | 30%   | 25%   | 36%   |       |       |
| Administrative & bureaucratic tasks                                   | 26%   | 21%   | 30%   |       |       |
| Local clinical guidelines (PM)                                        | 19%   | 19%   | 19%   |       |       |
| Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines & their follow up               | 19%   | 15%   | 22%   |       |       |
| Directives of own clinical superior                                   |       |       |       |       |       |
| Other national guidelines than Socialstyrelsen's (e.g. from Swedish clinical societies/centers) | 12%   | 11%   | 13%   |       |       |
| Regional medication and device recommendations                        | 17%   | 11%   | 23%   |       |       |
| Lack of official approvals for medical diagnostics/treatments         | 11%   | 10%   | 11%   |       |       |
| National quality registers within health care & their follow up       | 8%    | 7%    | 9%    |       |       |
| Economic incentives to undertreat                                     | 7%    | 4%    | 10%   |       |       |
| Economic incentives to over treat                                     | 2%    | 1%    | 4%    |       |       |

2.3. How much influence do the following factors have on your own clinical decision making?

2.3.1. Your own medical assessment

| Influence        | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None (1)         | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    |       |       |
| Little (2)       | 2%    | 2%    | 2%    |       |       |
| Somewhat (3)     | 3%    | 4%    | 2%    |       |       |
| Much (4)         | 25%   | 22%   | 27%   |       |       |
| Very much (5)    | 69%   | 71%   | 68%   |       |       |
| Can't say        | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    |       |       |

2.3.2. Guidelines in general

| Influence        | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None (1)         | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    |       |       |
| Little (2)       | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    |       |       |
| Somewhat (3)     | 11%   | 12%   | 10%   |       |       |
| Much (4)         | 48%   | 49%   | 46%   |       |       |
| Very much (5)    | 40%   | 37%   | 43%   |       |       |
| Can't say        | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    |       |       |

2.3.3. A colleague's medical assessment

| Influence        | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None (1)         | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    |       |       |
| Little (2)       | 10%   | 9%    | 10%   |       |       |
| Somewhat (3)     | 33%   | 31%   | 35%   |       |       |
| Much (4)         | 42%   | 41%   | 42%   |       |       |
| Very much (5)    | 15%   | 18%   | 13%   |       |       |
| Can't say        | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    |       |       |

2.3.4. Costs for the hospital

| Influence        | 1 (%) | 2 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| None (1)         | 13%   | 14%   | 11%   |       |       |
| Little (2)       | 45%   | 49%   | 42%   |       |       |
| Somewhat (3)     | 34%   | 32%   | 36%   |       |       |
|                | Much (4) | Very much (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 6%       | 5%            | 7%        |
|                | 1%       | 0%            | 2%        |
|                | 1%       | 0%            | 2%        |

2.4. How much influence do the following sources of information have on your own clinical decision making?

2.4.1. Local clinical guidelines (PM)

|                | None (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Much (4) | Very much (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 1%       | 5%         | 21%          | 43%      | 31%           | 1%        |
|                | 0%       | 4%         | 18%          | 44%      | 34%           | 0%        |
|                | 1%       | 5%         | 24%          | 42%      | 27%           | 2%        |

2.4.2. Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines

|                | None (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Much (4) | Very much (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 1%       | 5%         | 25%          | 44%      | 24%           | 2%        |
|                | 1%       | 5%         | 25%          | 46%      | 20%           | 3%        |
|                | 6%       | 5%         | 25%          | 42%      | 27%           | 1%        |

2.4.3. Other national clinical guidelines/recommendations than Socialstyrelsen's (e.g. from Swedish clinical societies/centers)

|                | None (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Much (4) | Very much (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 1%       | 8%         | 22%          | 47%      | 20%           | 2%        |
|                | 3%       | 6%         | 20%          | 47%      | 22%           | 0%        |
|                | 10%      | 10%        | 21%          | 47%      | 18%           | 1%        |

2.4.4. European clinical guidelines

|                | None (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Much (4) | Very much (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 3%       | 9%         | 23%          | 38%      | 26%           | 1%        |
|                | 7%       | 17%        | 32%          | 28%      | 15%           | 1%        |
|                | 0%       | 6%         | 13%          | 48%      | 37%           | 2%        |

III CLINICAL PRIORITY SETTING

3.1. How much do you know the ethical platform of priority setting? (The three ethical principles.)

|                | Not at all (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Well (4) | Very well (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 10%            | 12%        | 9%           | 18%      | 15%           | 21%       |
|                | 12%            | 15%        | 21%          | 32%      | 33%           | 30%       |
|                | 9%             | 17%        | 6%           | 24%      | 25%           | 22%       |
|                | 13%            | 11%        | 14%          | 47%      | 47%           | 47%       |
|                | 4%             | 4%         | 4%           | 4%       | 4%            | 4%        |

3.2. How much do you know Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines within your own working field?(see list of existing guidelines)

|                | Not at all (1) | Little (2) | Somewhat (3) | Well (4) | Very well (5) | Can't say |
|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
|                | 3%             | 8%         | 14%          | 20%      | 20%           | 1%        |
|                | 4%             | 14%        | 1%           | 20%      | 20%           | 1%        |
|                | 1%             | 20%        | 21%          | 39%      | 27%           | 51%       |
|                | 6%             | 11%        | 1%           | 25%      | 24%           | 25%       |
|                | 6%             | 11%        | 1%           | 25%      | 24%           | 25%       |

3.3. In which aspects do you consider Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines to be helpful?

|                                | Improvement of equity of patients in health care | Improvement of quality of patient care | Priority setting of clinical |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | 52%                                           | 52%                                   | 46%                        |
|                                | 54%                                           | 50%                                   | 38%                        |
|                                | 50%                                           | 53%                                   | 53%                        |
| measures in times of scarcity of resources |  |  |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Writing local guidelines                 | 43%              | 47%  | 40% |
| Improvement of distribution of resources according to patients' need | 40%              | 41%  | 39% |
| Improvement of consideration of costs in relation to patients' benefit | 39%              | 35%  | 44% |
| Health care politics                     | 33%              | 31%  | 34% |
| Every clinical decision for which there is information in them | 29%              | 28%  | 29% |
| Hospital management                      | 24%              | 24%  | 24% |

3.4. Would you like to get further knowledge and training in the ethical platform of priority setting?

|                      | No (0) | 33%  | 31%  | 34% |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|------|
|                      | Yes (1) | 57%  | 57%  | 57%  |
| Can't say            | 9%     | 12%  | 9%   |

3.5. Would you like to get further support for the application of Socialstyrelsen's national guidelines?

|                      | No (0) | 40%  | 39%  | 41% |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|------|
|                      | Yes (1) | 51%  | 51%  | 52%  |
| Can't say            | 9%     | 11%  | 7%   |