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# Just Health Care?

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## **Notions of just health care at three Swedish hospitals**

Different notions of justice call for different principles upon which to base priorities in health care. This basic insight has made us interested in what notions of 'just health care' can be found within the health care setting.

Our empirical material stems from a comprehensive study in three Swedish hospitals 1998–2001. Through studies of documents, participant observations in the day-to-day work and in-depth interviews, ethical reflections made by individual actors and groups have been interpreted. In each hospital, two clinics and the top management have been studied. The total number of interviews is 114, including nurses, doctors, assistant nurses, department managers, clinic managers, and managers in the top management of the hospitals.

In our presentation, we will:

1. Present our empirical material and identify any occurring differences between professional categories and between levels of organisation
2. Analyse these differences in terms of available theoretical frameworks, for instance, the conceptions of justice developed by John Rawls and Amartya Sen.
3. Analyse how the views on justice relate in practice to views on how to make priorities in health care. How do people in our material reason about justice and priorities, and what do they actually give priority to in their daily work at the hospital? Do other considerations than ideas about justice affect what priorities are actually made?