

## WHAT IS ECONOMICS REALLY ABOUT?

### Scarcity, Choice, Opportunity Cost in the Health Sector

#### A dialysis machine.

*These machines are used for patients who have kidneys that don't work properly – without dialysis the patients would quickly die. They are expensive – costing about \$100,000.*

*Some patients can get a kidney transplant, which means they won't need dialysis any longer.*

**A hospital in a town has one dialysis machine that can run for 30 hours per week. As the boss of the hospital, you must decide who gets the treatment.**

**There are a number of patients who require treatment and their needs are given below.**



Patient A: 6 year old child who needs **10** hours per week. They are awaiting a kidney transplant which is expected to occur in one year.

Patient B: A 55 year old man who needs **5** hours per week. He is married with grown up children.

Patient C: A 3 year old child who will need dialysis indefinitely. Currently needs **4** hours per week.

Patient D: 78 year old female, 4 hours per week.

Patient E : 7 year old child, has three brothers and sisters, **4** hours per week.

Patient F: 8 year old child, no brothers and sisters, **5** hours per week.

Patient G: 30 year old female, two young children, **6** hours per week.

Patient H: 30 year old male, two young children, **5** hours per week.

Patient I: 30 year old male, no children, **4** hours per week.

Patient J: 45 year old man with no children. Needs **6** hours per week but has a brother who will donate a kidney. This will take place in six month's time.

Patient K: A 65 year old man who requires **10** hours per week. As he has quite wealthy, he has promised to buy another dialysis machine for the hospital if he is still alive in one year's time.

**Decide how you will allocate the 30 hours, in order of preference.**