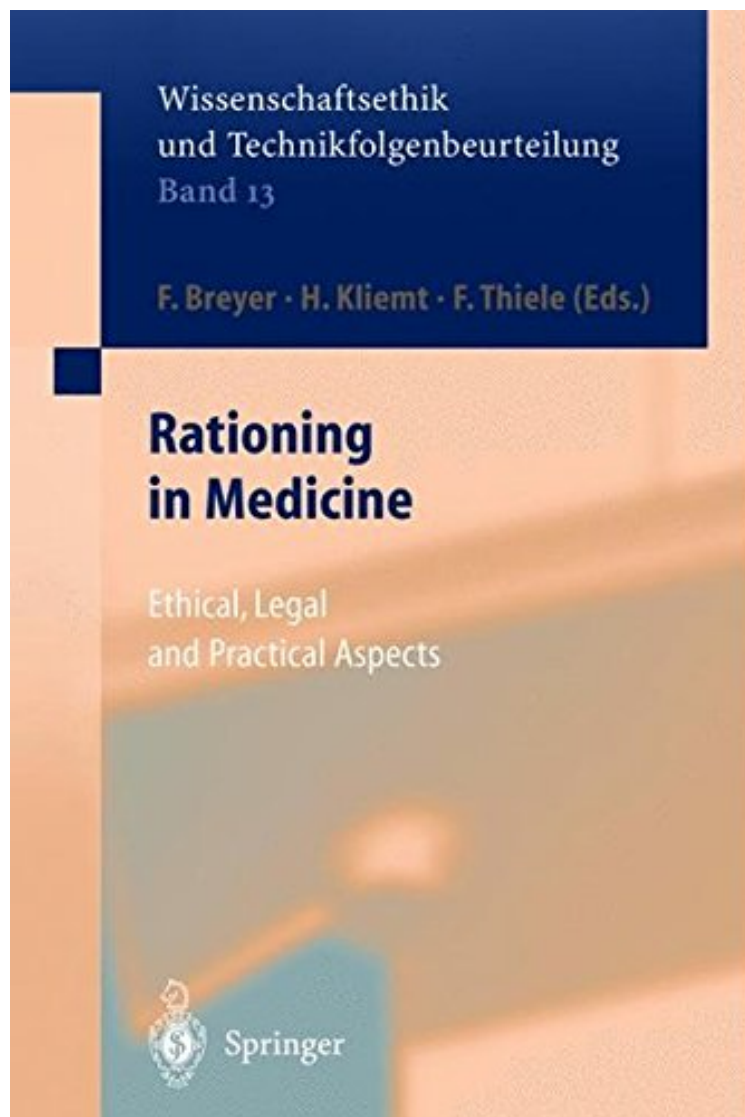


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## **Rationing in Medicine: Ethical, Legal and Practical Aspects (Ethics of Science and Technology Assessment)**

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The book series on the ethics of science and technology assessment edited by the Europäische Akademie is devoted to the publication of the work-reports of its project groups, works on the foundations of ethics, the philosophy science, and other issues related to the work of the Europäische Akademie. In addition, the series comprises the proceedings of conferences organized by the academy. The 13th volume documents the proceeding of the academy's spring symposium in 2000 on Rationing in Medicine which was held in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler on March 23-25, 2000. An intense discussion on the future of health care in Europe has been stimulated by increasing difficulties of securing adequate and needsshy; orientated medical care in the face of scarce resources and medical progress. Unshy; fortunately, quite of ten a rational discussion of rationing is drowned out by the politic al talk of the day. But only an open and well-informed debate, if anything at ali, can lead to transparent and just rationing procedures which eventually might be acceptable to the public at large. For this debate much can be learnt from observing the experiences other countries have made with their health care arrangements. What kinds of mistakes should be avoided and what might be useful in the different states and perhaps also in the supra-national context of an emerging Europe are interesting and important issues.

From the Back Cover "The Crisis of the Welfare State" has become a fashionable topic for research projects, academic conferences and political debates in recent decades. A quarter of a century after the emergence of the so-called "health-care cost explosion", there is a widespread belief that in the issue of health care financing the worst times are still ahead of us. Nobody believes that it will be possible to place an ever increasing burden on future working generations without risking their adverse reaction. One of the main solutions proposed for averting the imminent health care crisis comes under the heading of "rationing" and thus - not surprisingly - the world-wide debate on whether and how to ration medical care has become very lively recently. The present volume is the result of a conference devoted to the topic of Rationing in Medicine that was organized by the Europauml;ische Akademie zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler GmbH. One of the purposes of this volume is to contribute to a clarification of the concept of rationing and its possible implementations and thereby to help the participants in the debate to avoid further unnecessary confusion. Authors from the disciplines of medicine, philosophy, economics and law as well as practitioners of health care itself and from the field of health-care financing have contributed to this volume.