What is Accountability for Reasonableness (A4R)?

“Accountability for Reasonableness” (A4R) is an ethical framework that describes the five conditions/principles that contribute to establishing a moral legitimacy of priority settings (Daniels & Sabin 2002).

1. **Empowerment**: There should be efforts to optimize the effective opportunities for participation in priority setting and to minimize power differences in the decision-making context.
2. **Relevance**: Decisions should be made on the basis of reasons (i.e., evidence, principles, values) that “fair-minded people can agree are relevant to meeting diverse health needs under resource constraints”.
3. **Publicity/Transparency**: Decisions and their rationales should be transparent and made publicly accessible.
4. **Revisions/Appeals**: There should be opportunities to revisit and revise decisions in light of further evidence or arguments and there should be a mechanism for challenge and dispute resolution.
5. **Compliance**: There should be either voluntary or public regulation of the process to ensure that the first four conditions are met.

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**Are we clear on the criteria we use to make this decision?**

Which internal and external stakeholders will be most affected?

**What mechanisms do we have in place to learn from this experience to improve future iterations and stay accountable to the ethical framework?**

**How we will communicate with stakeholders on the implications of this decision including criteria used, goals and expected outcomes?**

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**What will be the mechanism/process to incorporate new information that may impact decision previously agreed upon?**