

A look at who is influencing Barack Obama. Remember he said in the campaign to look at who he surrounds himself with. One of these people is Ezekiel Emmanuel MD He is or was the Chair (on extended detail to the **Office of Management and Budget**) at the **National Institute of Health (NIH)** So on the surface it would appear Obama made a good choice in selecting Ezekiel Emmanuel MD.

There is something that keeps coming up in the current health care debate about End of life Counseling. According to NIH own website http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/SeniorStaff/ezekiel_emanuel.html

“Widely published on the ethics of clinical research, advance care directives, end-of-life issues, euthanasia, the ethics of managed care, and the physician-patient relationship, Dr. Emanuel’s articles have appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Journal of American Medical Association, and many other medical and ethics journals. His book, The Ends of Human Life, has been widely praised and received the Rosenhaupt Memorial Book Award by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.”

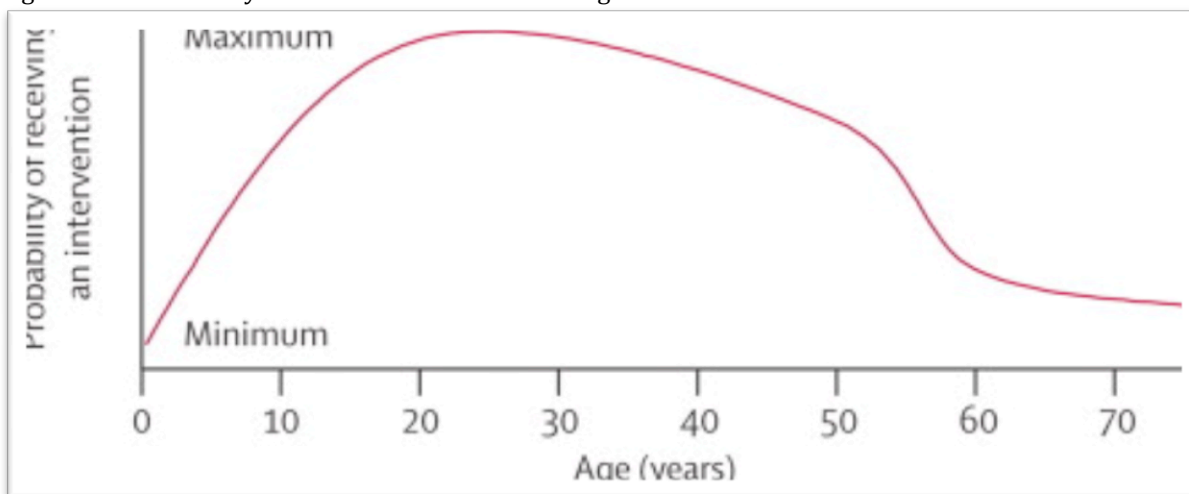
Ok good so far. But then you see something in his own words that was published in the LANCET a medical journal. An article I came across research the current debate and seeing terms like End of Life counseling and Zeke Emmanuel.

Link to the Actual Article <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/PIIS0140673609601379.pdf>

In the article he goes on to explain different methods of prioritizing Health Care. In the end he is advocating something called the **Complete Lives System**. When I read the following passage, I was stunned. I thought Dr took a HIPPOCRATIC OATH to do no harm? Here is the passage.

“Consideration of the importance of complete lives also supports modifying the youngest-first principle by prioritizing adolescents and young adults over infants (figure). **Adolescents have received substantial education and parental care, investments that will be wasted without a complete life. Infants, by contrast, have not yet received these investments. Similarly, adolescence brings with it a developed personality capable of forming and valuing long-term plans whose fulfillment requires a complete life.** As the legal philosopher Ronald Dworkin argues, “It is terrible when an infant dies, but worse, most people think, when a three-year-old child dies and worse still when an adolescent does”; this argument is supported by empirical surveys. **Importantly, the prioritization of adolescents and young adults considers the social and personal investment that people are morally entitled to have received at a particular age, rather than accepting the results of an unjust status quo.** Consequently, poor adolescents should be treated the same as wealthy ones, even though they may have received less investment owing to social injustice.”

I again I am stunned by this. How is this not rationing care?



He verifies what he is saying in this passage.

When implemented, the complete lives system produces a priority curve on which individuals aged between roughly 15 and 40 years get the most substantial chance, whereas the youngest and oldest people get chances that are attenuated (figure).

I am not a legal or medical expert, but I feel compelled to ask is this not Rationing not of only seniors but of infants as well.