Israel's new Transplantation Law directs the National Transplantation Center to accord additional points toward the allocation of cadaver organs to persons who have signed a donor card (and some – though fewer – points to their close relatives). This issue is especially poignant in Israeli society, as some Orthodox rabbis eschew the notion of brain-death and thus prohibit donation, while not explicitly forbidding receiving a cadaveric organ. Some philosophers have denounced the new rule, arguing that it violates a fundamental principle of medical ethics, namely that treatment decisions should be based solely on medical need and must disregard any nonmedical distinctions (such as moral desert or social worth). Some proponents of the new law grant that this is a regrettable departure from received medical ethics, but assert that it is justified by the necessity of increasing Israel's notoriously low consent rate for organ donation. Dr. Zohar will argue instead that the new rule involves no ethical violation; rather, granting such priority is entirely justified and ought to be adopted everywhere.

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