

Muddling through elegantly

The issues are incredibly difficult. Thus, we proceed better by honestly recognizing their complexity, the heterogeneity of patient populations, the imperfections of our tools, and the uncertainty of medical knowledge and treatment. This requires continuing engagement, flexibility, and humility. The fitting response is to muddle through, changing course as knowledge and experience guide us. If we are particularly thoughtful and lucky, perhaps we will be able to say that we have “muddled through elegantly.”¹⁷

Mechanic D. Muddling through elegantly: finding the proper balance in rationing. Health Aff (Millwood). 1997;16(5):83-92