

*'In order to manage the growing number of critically ill COVID patients in New York and other parts of the US we not only need to get more ventilators. We also need to change the way we use them. Persistently it's said: "Everyone that needs a ventilator will get one". I think this should be:*

*"Everyone that may benefit from mechanical ventilation will get one". Important principle of medicine: "Primum non nocere".*

*Mechanical ventilation is to extend life with a quality that is acceptable to the patient, not to prolong a dying process'.*

*Jan Bakker, MD, PhD, associate Professor NYU Langone Health & adjunct professor Columbia University Medical Center, New York, USA*