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10 PAPERS

everyone should read
about 'Assisted Dying'

Assisted suicide is not needed, not safe & fraught with ethical difficulties

1. Palliative Medicine doctors look after those who are terminally ill, providing symptom relief for pain and other difficult symptoms, psychological, social and emotional support. A recent survey found 95% would refuse to prescribe lethal medication to their patients even if it was legal. 40% would leave their jobs if it was legal in their hospice or hospital.

<https://apmonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/APM-Survey-of-AD-Impact-on-PC-FINAL.pdf>

2. Instead we need more care. Access to high quality palliative care is inadequate for most people. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8279030/pdf/12904_2021_Article_802.pdf

3. Assisted dying has problems too. Complications of assisted dying at 6.9% eg seizures/ prolonged death. <https://bjgp.org/content/71/712/516/>

4. Are the safeguards safe? Not in other countries. Worries grow about medically assisted dying in Canada-safeguards eroded within 6 years.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)01733-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)01733-0/fulltext)

5. Effects on vulnerable groups. Why is Canada euthanizing the poor?

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/why-is-canada-euthanising-the-poor/>

6. Euthanasia for Learning Disability and Autism – 39 Dutch cases

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10228250/pdf/S2056472423000698a.pdf>

7. Does it happen without consent. Yes, in Belgium- the elderly, confused and in a coma.

<https://jme.bmj.com/content/41/8/625>

8. Could there be a pressure on older people? Wish to die is transient and associated with depression and loneliness. <https://academic.oup.com/ageing/article/50/4/1321/6133225>

9. Capacity is difficult to determine- Psychiatrists' concerns.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4461>

10. As is external pressure. Oregon- 54% of people cited 'feeling a burden' as one of the reasons they chose assisted suicide.

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Documents/year24.pdf>

Note also less than 1% were referred for psychiatric evaluation. Was there untreated depression?