

## Answering Physicians' End-of-Life Questions



Your relationship with patients is critical to ensure they receive care they truly want. Doc 2 Doc helps physicians provide unbiased information and up-to-date care to patients who ask about available end-of-life options.

It can be surprisingly difficult to discuss a patient's terminal illness and inevitable death. It's hard to know when to explore issues, and what specifics to discuss. Physician communication about end-of-life options can be part of ongoing conversation regarding each patient's goals of care. The knowledge you share helps patients weigh the benefits and burdens of various treatment options, and align treatment decisions with what is most important to them. Ideally, these conversations should begin soon after an illness enters an advanced or terminal phase and continue throughout progression of that illness.

A resource tailored to practicing physicians, Doc 2 Doc offers you readily available, free, confidential telephone consultation with one of our seasoned medical directors, each with years of experience in end-of-life medical care.

Our Doc 2 Doc physicians stand ready with information and guidance to manage complex end-of-life decisions.

**Call us anytime: 800.247.7421.**

**Available at 800.247.7421, your consultation may include discussion of:**

- » Hospice, palliative care and effective pain and symptom management;
- » Responding to a patient's request for assistance in achieving a peaceful death;
- » Reliable information for patients about end-of-life issues and advance planning;
- » Aid in dying – a medical practice whereby terminally ill, mentally competent adults may request a prescription for medication they may ingest at a time of their choosing to achieve a peaceful death;
- » Communication with patients, pharmacists and family members, current clinical practice guidelines, and specific state laws impacting end-of-life care;
- » The practice of voluntarily stopping eating and drinking (VSED) for intentional death, including appropriate supportive care;
- » Responding to inquiries concerning withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment;
- » Safeguards and best medical practices for a patient-controlled death.

**Doc 2 Doc** is a program of Compassion & Choices, the leader in initiatives to improve care and expand choice at the end of life. For over 30 years, we have provided support and education for individuals, their loved ones and health-care professionals to build a society in which people receive state-of-the-art healthcare and a full range of choices for dying in comfort, dignity and control.