



INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICAL AID IN DYING FOR PATIENTS AND DOCTORS

FOR PATIENTS:

A decisionally capable adult with a verifiable physician-diagnosed terminal illness seeking medical aid in dying can consult with their doctor to learn about all end-of-life options that are available and appropriate for their circumstances.

You are in charge of your healthcare decisions. It is very important that you make your wishes known to both your doctor and your loved ones to ensure your wishes will be respected.

Some terminally ill patients choose to not use the prescribed medication for medical aid in dying to end his or her life, but simply find comfort in knowing they have the option to control their own death if they choose.

Steps You Can Take to Ensure Your End-of-Life Wishes Are Respected:

1. Talk with your family and loved ones about your end-of-life wishes.
2. Complete an advance directive specifying your medical wishes and designating a trusted person to be your healthcare power of attorney (or “proxy”).
3. Consult with your physician and ask if s/he is willing to support your choice for death with dignity by writing the necessary prescription.
4. Advise your physician that s/he may speak with a medical director at Compassion & Choices, who can answer questions about all end-of-life issues including aid in dying, aid-in-dying medical protocols and any specific concerns they may have regarding the appropriate standard of medical care. See FOR PHYSICIANS below.

FOR PHYSICIANS:

If your patient is seeking a patient-controlled death by one of the following means: forgoing unwanted medical treatment, voluntarily refusing nutrition and hydration, or aid in dying by using medication, you are invited to contact **Compassion & Choices' Doctor-to-Doctor (Doc2Doc) Program** for more information.

The Doc2Doc program provides accurate medical information to physicians about all aspects of end-of-life care and choice. Compassion & Choices' **national medical directors** are available to answer all your questions, including the appropriate aid-in-dying medical protocol to use to achieve the highest standard of care.

Steps You Can Take:

1. Call Compassion & Choices' **Doc2Doc line** at **800.247.7421** to speak with one of our experienced medical directors.
2. Email our medical directors at doc2doc@compassionandchoices.org
3. Visit our website at www.compassionandchoices.org for more information on improving care and expanding choice at the end of life.

Compassion & Choices
End-of-Life Consultation Program
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