

How to Talk to Your Healthcare Provider about Medical Aid in Dying in New Mexico

Discuss your end-of-life priorities with your medical team NOW to ensure the options you want will be available to you. Confirm that your healthcare provider will support your choices.

Suggestions for starting the conversation

For those who do not have a terminal illness:

I value quality of life. Should I become terminally ill and no longer able to enjoy living, I would like to have the option of medical aid in dying.

I hope you will honor my decisions and respect my values, as I respect yours. Would you write a medical aid-in-dying prescription in accordance with the law if I qualify? Please tell me now if you will not.

For those who do have a terminal illness:

I want to have the authorized option to advance the time of my death if my suffering becomes unbearable.

Am I eligible for medical aid in dying? If yes, will you write a prescription in accordance with the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act?

If not, will you refer me to a clinician who is willing to write a prescription? If I am not eligible, what will my condition look like when I am eligible?

Medical aid in dying is a proven medical practice in which a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live may request from his or her healthcare provider a prescription for medication which they can choose to self-administer to bring about a peaceful death.

No one but you can make this request to your healthcare provider. And it is important to ask only your provider and not the office staff.

You may mention that Compassion & Choices provides assistance to healthcare providers through our Doc2Doc Program, which offers free, confidential telephone consultation with a seasoned medical director. Please feel free to give your healthcare provider our Doc2Doc flier or the Doc2Doc phone number: 1-800-247-7421.