

Physician Assisted Suicide for Terminally Ill Patients: An Argumentative Essay

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Abstract

Dying process is too often needlessly protracted by these medical technology is consequently marked by incapacitations, intolerable pain, and indignity. Physician assisted suicide defines as knowingly and intentionally providing a person with the knowledge or means or both required to commit suicide, including counseling about

In Turkey, physician assisted suicide is illegal under Article 84 any person who commits, helps, supports, or encourages a person for suicide is punished with imprisonment from 2-5 years [16]. In United Kingdom, assisted suicide is also illegal under Suicide Act 1961 [17]. In Jordan, physician assisted suicide is not of the physician duties according to article number 3 “it is not permissible to terminate the life of a patient who is suffering from incurable and insurmountable disease and whether accompanied by pain, either directly or indirectly, except brain death, according to the scientific conditions approved by the Medical Association” [18].

Proponents

Physician assisted suicide has been legalized in Switzerland since 1942 and is accessible for noncitizens, and according to swiss law assisting suicide is punishable just if done for “whoever, from self sh motives, induces another to commit suicide or assists him therein shall be punished, if the suicide was successful or attempted, by confinement in a penitentiary for not more than five years or by imprisonment” article 115 of the penal code of Switzerland [19]. In 1994 voters in Oregon approved the Death with Dignity Act, which allowing a physician to prescribe a lethal dose that self-administers voluntarily by the terminally ill patient, the patient and the physician who follow the requirements of the act are protected from criminal prosecution [20].

In 2008 Washington Death with Dignity Act passed with the same to Oregon law [21]. Also in 2013 Vermont Patient Choice and Control at the End of Life Act has been in effect [22,23]. In 2016 California's physician assisted dying law took

Ethical defense

In the last revised of The International Code of Medical Ethics in the section which under the name of duties of physicians to patients states that "A physician shall always bear in mind the obligation to respect human life" [29]. Also, patient autonomy must be respected from physician but also must be balanced with other ethical principles [30]. From the religious perspectives, physician assisted suicide is morally wrong as it showed clearly in the Holy Quran in Surah 5-ayah 32 (AlMaeda) "That was why We wrote for the Children of Israel that whoever killed a soul, except for a soul slain, or for sedition in the earth, it should be considered as though he had killed all mankind; and that whoever saved it should be regarded as though he had saved all mankind. Our Messengers brought those proofs, then many of them thereafter commit excesses in the earth by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "God is the creator and author of all life."

Physician assisted suicide is associated with female gender with situations indicate emotional vulnerability such as living alone, and being divorced [7]. Which may explain the large increase in physician assisted suicide incidence of 3 in 1000 deaths to 11 in 1000 deaths found in 2001 and 2013 respectively [31]. Furthermore, terminally ill patients with depression in Oregon have obtained prescriptions for lethal medication [32]. Also physician assisted suicide has been associated with 6.3% increase in the total suicide rates in the US [33]. All these information may indicate malpractice related to physician assisted suicide. Palliative care is intended to improve the quality of life of patients diagnosed with an incurable life-limiting illness and their families, that of offered by a multidisciplinary team [34]. Palliative care is

