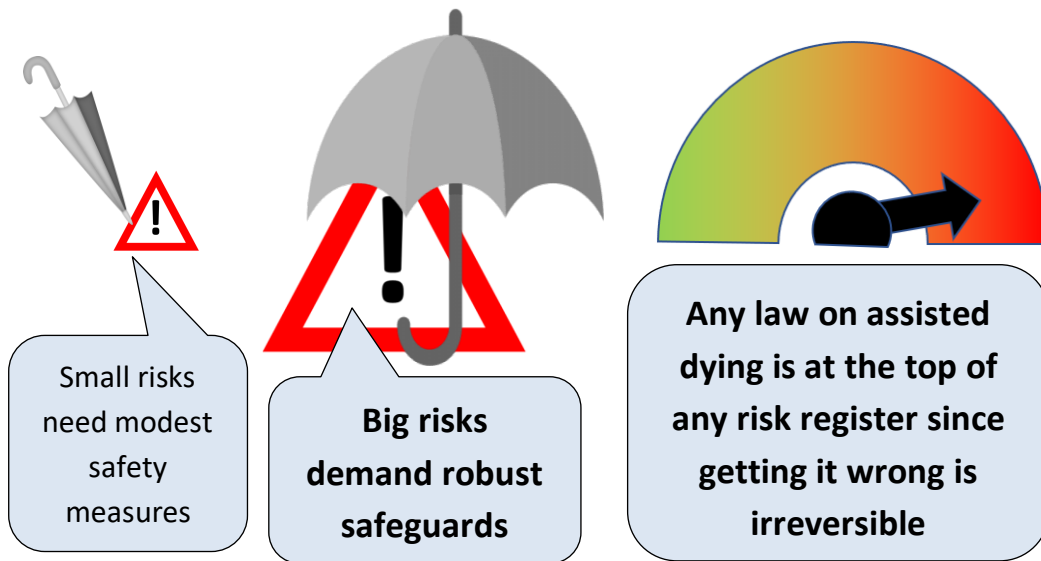
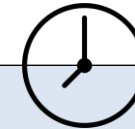


Assisted deaths and safeguards



**Problem 1: Prognosis**



Proposals to include a six month prognosis assumes doctors can accurately predict this, but -doctors become more inaccurate the longer the survival<sup>1</sup>

- one fifth of predictions in motor neurone disease are wrong<sup>2</sup>
- half of predictions in heart failure are wrong<sup>3</sup>
- 5% of terminal diagnoses are wrong<sup>4</sup>

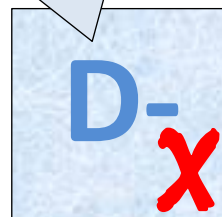


**Problem 2: Intent**  
A wish to die is often transient<sup>5</sup>

**Problem 3: Capacity**  
After 15 years the Mental Capacity Act is still not fully implemented<sup>6</sup>



**Problem 4: Our record in the UK**  
We continue to fail vulnerable individuals and groups<sup>7, 8</sup>



**References**

1. Glare P *et al.* A systematic review of physician's survival predictions in terminally ill patients. *BMJ*, 2003; **327**: 195-8
2. Agosta F *et al* Survival prediction models in motor neurone disease. *European Journal of Neurology*, 2019; **26**(9): 1143-52.
3. Warriach HJ *et al.* Accuracy of physician prognosis in heart failure and lung cancer: comparison between physician estimates and model predicted survival. *Palliative Medicine*, 2016; **30**(7): 684-9.
4. House of Lords Report 86-II (Session 2004-05), p730.
5. Monteforte-Royo C, *et al.* What lies behind the wish to hasten death? A systematic review and meta-ethnography from the perspective of patients. *PLoSOne*, 2017; **7**(5): e37117
6. Select Committee on Mental Capacity Act 2005- Report
7. Confidential Inquiry into Premature Deaths of People with Learning Disabilities <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cipold/>
8. Protect, respect, connect- decisions about living and dying well during CPVID-19. CQC 2021.