

Monitoring assisted deaths

v2



Monitoring care is crucial to safeguard patients

But problems with the way assisted deaths are monitored, greatly limits any conclusions about safety

Looking back

- **All** assisted death legislations in the world monitor decisions **after** the assisted death
- The decision-making process is not monitored before the death
- There is little or no monitoring of the death itself
- Any data is provided by the prescriber of the lethal drugs



Examples of problems

- In Oregon, all source documentation on assisted deaths is destroyed one year after the annual report, making it impossible to review decisions.¹
Information on complications in 2020 was missing in 71% of assisted deaths²
- In the Netherlands, monitoring committees focus on procedure rather than whether the decision was right,⁴ and 1 in 5 of assisted deaths are not reported⁵
- In Belgium, 48% of assisted deaths were not reported and there are shortcomings in applying criteria, use of the independent doctor and official reporting^{6, 7}
- In Canada, statistical data is sketchy and there is no information on the adherence to eligibility criteria and safeguards⁸

References

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