



Assisted deaths and safeguards

v3



Small risks need modest safety measures




Big risks demand robust safeguards



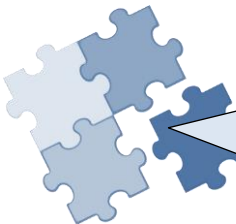
Any law on assisted dying is at the top of any risk register since getting it wrong is irreversible

Problem 1: Prognosis




Proposals to include a six month prognosis assumes doctors can accurately predict this, but -doctors become more inaccurate the longer the survival¹

- accuracy is worse for non-cancer patients²
- 88% of head & neck cancer prognoses are wrong³
- half of predictions in heart failure are wrong⁴
- 5% of terminal diagnoses are wrong⁵

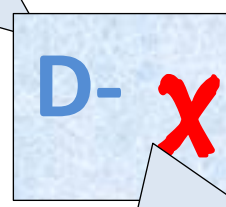


Problem 2: Intent
A wish to die is often transient⁶

Problem 4: UK record
We continue to fail vulnerable individuals and groups^{7, 8, 9}



Problem 3: Capacity
After 15 years the Mental Capacity Act is still not fully implemented⁶



Problem 5: Assessment
Doctors miss existential issues such as hopelessness¹⁰

References

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