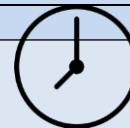


Assisted deaths and safeguards

v7



Small risks need modest safety measures

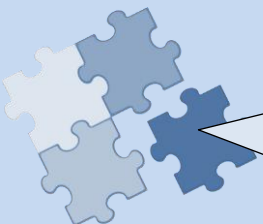
Big risks demand robust safeguards



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

Problem 1: Prognosis

- Doctors become more inaccurate the longer the survival¹
- Accuracy is worse for non-cancer patients²
- Doctors and families struggle to estimate prognosis in dementia³
- 88% of head & neck cancer prognoses are wrong⁴
- Half of predictions in heart failure are wrong⁵
- 5% of terminal diagnoses are wrong⁶

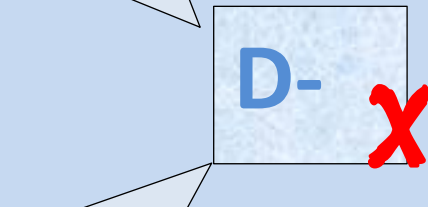
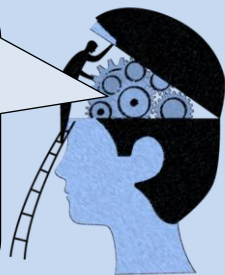


Problem 2: Intent
A wish to die is often transient⁷

Problem 4: UK record
We continue to fail vulnerable individuals and groups^{9, 10}

Problem 6: Expansion
All legislatures relax safeguards over time (including Oregon)¹²

Problem 3: Capacity
After 15 years the Mental Capacity Act is still not fully implemented⁸



Problem 5: Assessment
Doctors miss existential issues such as depression¹¹

Every safeguard is attacked as being discriminatory and limiting choice

References

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