


**Ethics as culture broker
re: Medical Assistance in Dying**




Hamilton
Health
Sciences


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Orienting to values


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**Person-centered, Values-based,
Evidence-informed**

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A Values-Based Approach to MAID

Caring:

- Respect patient autonomy (the right to choose a legal option)
- Access to palliative care essential for real choice

Moral diversity:

- Organizations need to support individual right of conscience of staff, physicians *and* patients; accessible referral process essential

Access:

- Patients should be able to access MAID within their communities, and have care provided at home, if they wish

Privacy/Confidentiality:

- For patients/families and staff/physicians

Quality and Safety:

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Making space for reflection

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Wendy's Story



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Pausing to reflect



- What do I feel about assisted dying? Where do my feelings come from?
- Would I want this option for myself, my family, my patients?
- What are my fears and hopes related to assisted dying?
- If Wendy were my patient, what would I do?

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The Do's and Don'ts of Respectful Conversations

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on and honor your own values: use "I"• Think critically and acknowledge complexity• Articulate concerns• Identify common values (compassion, respect, professionalism, etc.)• Understand the facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assume others agree with you (the royal "we")• Create false "sides" (good/bad; right/wrong)• Denigrate persons• Focus only on differences• Get caught up in "what if" and "slippery slope" scenarios


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Capacity Building

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Doc, I want you to help me die.

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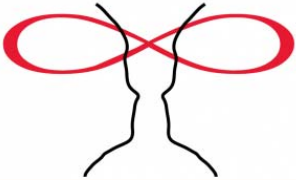
What do you normally do when a patient chooses something you think isn't good for her?

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How to respond MAID requests?

Know the facts
"Warm connected presence"



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Developing Narrative Competence

- A request for assisted dying is an invitation into the patient's story
- Requires curiosity, openness and *narrative competence*
 - What might the patient *really* be saying?
 - What is motivating the request?
 - What is the feeling behind it all?

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Attending to patient, family, team and organizational suffering

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Suffering is Complex



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Connect to Resources

- Supports to address patient suffering:
 - Palliative care consult?
 - Psychiatry Consult?
 - Spiritual Care?
 - Community supports?



- Supports for you:
your team, your chief/manager, institutional resources

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Compassion



Author: Wonderlane <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wonderlane/4463698051/in/photostream>

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**Embody optimism,
cultivate resilience**

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