Implementation of Voluntary Assisted Dying in Residential Aged Care Facilities

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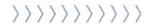
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Who seeks VAD

The Royal Melbourne Hospital

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- Its not for everyone, or even most

- All walks of life, backgrounds, gender

- Common feature

  – Strong self-belief

  – Control of own life

  – Control of own actions

Eligibility

The Royal Melbourne Hospital

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- At least one condition that is advanced, progressive and will cause death

- On the balance of probabilities will cause death within

  - 12 months neurodegenerative

  - 6 months others

- Must have decision making capacity

  - Cognition

  - Mood

- Voluntary and without coercion

- Enduring request

Eligibility

- In RACF

  – Movement disorders

  – Terminal cancer

Assessments

- Two medical practitioners minimum

- Multiple requests = multiple visits

  - Witnessing written request

- Telehealth forbidden (federal legislation)

- May require more specialists if eligibility in doubt

Medication

- Dispensed and instructions given by visiting pharmacist

- Storage

- Preparation

- Disposal

Dying by VAD in RACF

- Visitors

- Confirmation and certification

- Which staff will be on shift?

Suggestions

- Inform and survey staff and medical practitioners

- Who will be involved?

- Who definitely does not want to be involved?

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