Implementation of Voluntary Assisted Dying in Residential Aged Care Facilities

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11.2020
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Who seeks VAD

- It's 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

- 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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