

Information for patients about their data

Overview

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Board (the Board) is committed to protecting the privacy of all individuals who request, or access voluntary assisted dying in Western Australia.

The Board is a statutory body established to ensure adherence to the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019* (the Act) and to recommend safety and quality improvements.

The Voluntary Assisted Dying – Information Management System (VAD-IMS) is an online platform that medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and pharmacists ('practitioners') will use to submit the forms required as part of the voluntary assisted dying process. These forms are submitted to the Board.

These forms will contain your personal information, including health information, as this is required to enable access to voluntary assisted dying. The Board will handle your personal information in line with any applicable legislation and Department of Health policies relating to privacy and record keeping.

Information collected through VAD-IMS

VAD-IMS allows practitioners to complete and submit the forms required by the Act. As part of this, a profile will be created for you in VAD-IMS. Your profile will include mandatory information required by the Act such as your name, date of birth and contact details.

Practitioners will provide the Board with health and other personal information about you that is required as part of the voluntary assisted dying process (for example information about your diagnosis and prognosis).

How your information will be used

Information about you that is submitted through VAD-IMS will be accessed and used by:

- your Coordinating Practitioner, Consulting Practitioner and Administering Practitioner (if you have one), to enable you to progress through the process
- pharmacists at the WA Statewide Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service, to dispense the voluntary assisted dying substance
- the Board, to monitor the operation of the Act.

The Board will not include your personal details in the reports it releases to the Western Australian Government and the public about voluntary assisted dying activity in Western Australia.

The Board may use your information for safety and quality improvement and research purposes, however no personal information will be shared with researchers.

There may be occasions where the Board is required by law to disclose information about you to other bodies such as the Coroner's Court of Western Australia, the Western Australian Police or the State Administrative Tribunal.

How your information will be stored

The Western Australian Government takes the security of your personal information very seriously. All efforts have been taken to ensure that VAD-IMS is secure and to protect the data and privacy of individuals. Only people required to view your information for the purposes of the Act are authorised to access it. Many security features have been built into the VAD-IMS to ensure the information held by the Board is secure.

Accessing your data

Your practitioner will be able to inform you about what information they have provided to the Board about you.

Your information will not be able to be deleted after it has been submitted through VAD-IMS, even if you decide that you do not want to continue with your request for voluntary assisted dying. This is because the Board must store the personal information that it receives about all voluntary assisted dying cases, even those that do not proceed, indefinitely.

Privacy Information

The Board treats your personal information in accordance with:

- *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019*; and
- *Health Services Act 2016 (WA)*; and
- Department of Health Information Management Policy Framework; and
- Department of Health Information Communication Technology Policy Framework; and
- Department of Health Information Security Policy Framework; and
- any other relevant laws.