

review.

5. Moral opposition to assisted dying

5.1 Institutional objection by a health care facility or health authority

- Hospitals and health authorities that oppose assisted dying may not prohibit physicians from providing these services in other locations. There should be no discrimination against physicians who decide to provide assisted dying.

5.2 Conscientious objection by a physician

- Physicians are not obligated to fulfill requests for assisted dying. This means that physicians who choose not to provide or participate in assisted dying are not required to provide it or to participate in it or to refer the patient to a physician or a medical administrator who will provide assisted dying to the patient. There should be no discrimination against a physician who chooses not to provide or participate in assisted dying.
- Physicians are obligated to respond to a patient's request for assistance in dying. There are two equally legitimate considerations: the protection of physicians' freedom of conscience (or moral integrity) in a way that respects differences of conscience and the assurance of effective patient access to a medical service. In order to reconcile a physician's conscientious objection with a patient's request for access to assisted dying, physicians are expected to provide the patient with complete information on all options available, including assisted dying, and advise the patient on how to access any separate central information, counselling and referral service.
- Physicians are expected to make available relevant medical records (i.e., diagnosis, pathology, treatment and consults) to the attending physician when authorized by the patient to do so; or, if the patient requests a transfer of care to another physician, physicians are expected to transfer the patient's chart to the new physician when authorized by the patient to do so.
- Physicians are expected to act in good faith, not discriminate against a patient requesting assistance in dying, and not impede or block access to a request for assistance in dying.