

Disentangling Palliative Care and Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide in Dementia Care

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Abstract : Euthanasia, or assisted suicide (EAS), refers to the provision of medical assistance to individuals seeking to end their own lives. In Canada, the issue of EAS has been the subject of debate and legislative action for many years. In 2016, the Canadian government passed the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Act. This legalized EAS in Canada is subject to certain eligibility criteria. In 2023, debate in Canada continues regarding the scope of MAID practice and associated legislation. Dementia is an illness that causes suffering at the end of life. Persons suffering due to dementia deserve timely and effective palliative care.

Keywords : palliative care, neurocognitive disorder, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, euthanasia, assisted suicide, medical ethics, bioethics

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