

The Association for Palliative Medicine

of Great Britain and Ireland

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Association for Palliative Medicine Position Statement

APM position on Physician Assisted Suicide

1. The Association for Palliative Medicine, an organisation of over 1000 palliative medicine doctors working in hospices, hospitals and the community in Great Britain and Ireland, remain opposed to any change in the law concerning physician assisted suicide.
2. Palliative care strives to enhance patient dignity and choice towards the end of life. We need to improve access to and provision of excellent general and specialist palliative care rather than change the law to permit physician assisted suicide.
3. We believe that it is morally and clinically unacceptable for a doctor to assist a person in committing suicide, even if requested to do so by someone finding life intolerable at that time.
4. When dealing with patients contemplating suicide it is critical to ensure optimal medical and social care, and attempt to redress desperate situations that can lead someone to want to end their own life.

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