

The World Federation Right to Die Conference Ireland 20-21 Sept 2024



Irish Doctors supporting
MAID
Medical Assistance in Dying

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Thaddeus Pope

2

VSED Is an Essential End-of-Life Option Despite MAID Progress

3



4



MAID

5



6

different EOL option

7

VSED

8

Voluntarily
Stopping
Eating &
Drinking

9



10

Marie
Fleming



11

Cúirt Uachtarach na hÉireann
Supreme Court of Ireland

12



13

"there is **no**
constitutional right
to commit suicide"

14



15

still hastened
her death

16

not
MAID

17

backup
option

18

2nd
choice

19

VSED

20

other
advocates

21

Tony
Nicklinson

22



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

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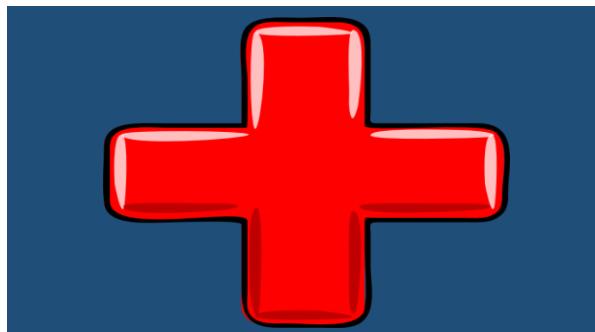
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33



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lawyers

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Monica
Cooke

Somerset
magistrate

38

maths teachers

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mother of MSP

41



42



43



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**higher
prevalence**



46



47



48



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51

no MAID
available → VSED

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what is VSED?

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VSED matters
even when MAID
authorized

56

what is VSED?

57

patient **with**
capacity

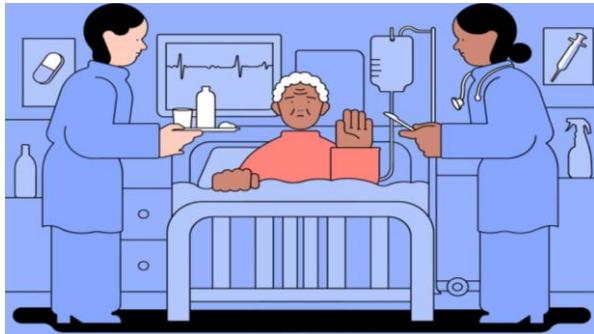
58

able to take food
& fluid by mouth

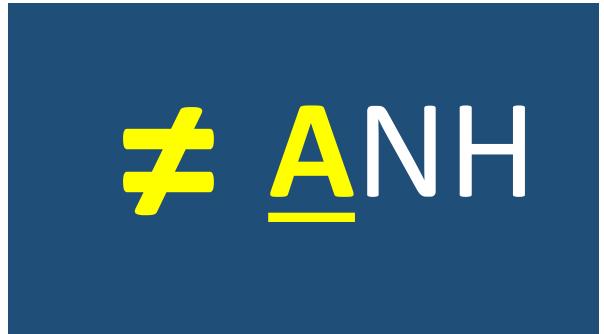
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voluntary
decision
to stop

60



61



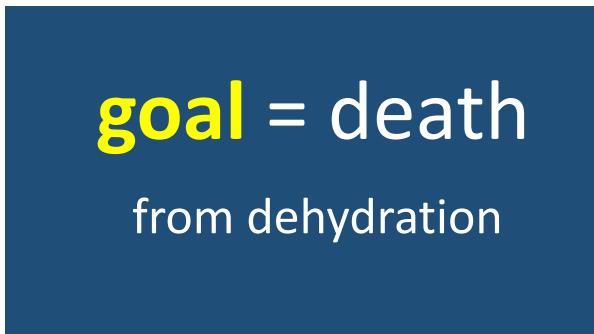
62



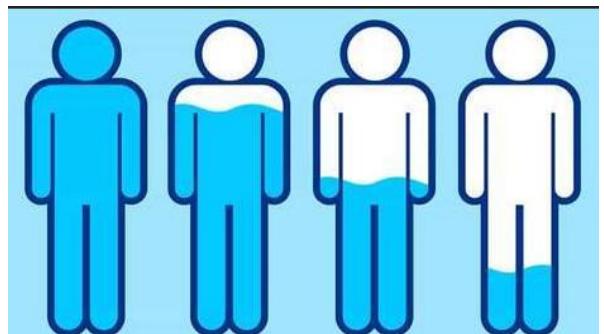
63



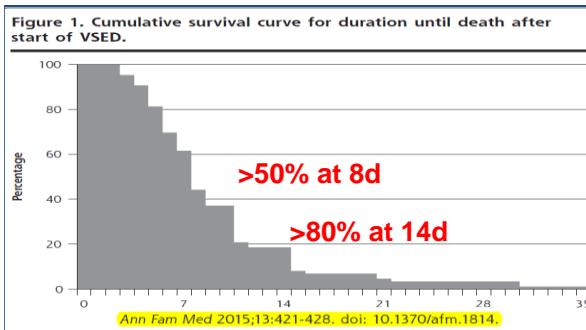
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EXCLUSIVE: War hero who begged for an assisted death starved himself for 8 weeks before dying

70

not VSED

71

**peaceful
comfortable**

72

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Nurses' Experiences with Hospice Patients Who Refuse Food and Fluids to Hasten Death

Linda Ganzini, M.D., M.P.H., Elizabeth R. Goy, Ph.D., Lois L. Miller, Ph.D., R.N., Theresa A. Harvath, R.N., Ph.D., Ann Jackson, M.B.A., and Molly A. Delorit, B.A.

73

100 Oregon
nurses cared for
VSED patients

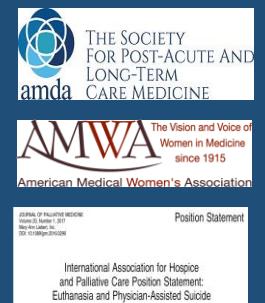
74

most deaths
“**peaceful** with
little suffering”

75



76



that's
VSED

77

VSED still
matters

78

6 reasons

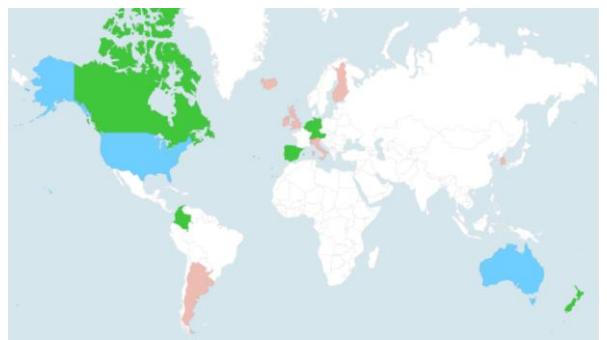
79

reason 1

80

MAID illegal

81



82

VSED **only**
legal option

83

reason 2

84

even if MAID legal
patient **ineligible**

85



86

6-12 month
prognosis

87

**grievous &
irremediable
suffering**

6mo

88

Huntington's
Parkinson's

89

completed
life

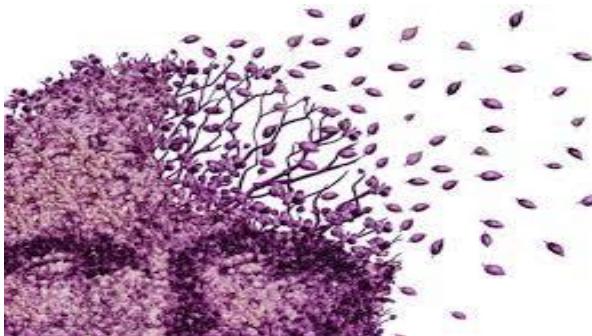
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91

6mo →
no capacity
no self-ingestion

92



93



94

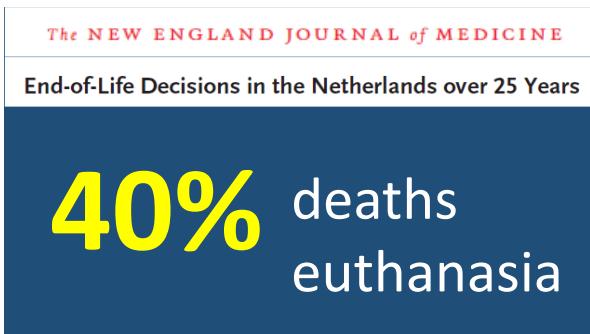
no MAID
available → VSED

95

2.1%
of all deaths

Onwuteaka-Philipsen BD, Brinkman-Stopperenburg A, Penning C, de Jong-Kruit GJ, van Delden JJM, van der Heide A. Trends in end-of-life practices before and after the enactment of the euthanasia law in the Netherlands from 1990 to 2006: a repeated cross-sectional survey. *Lancet*. 2012;380(9845):908-915.
 Chabot BE, Goedhart A. A survey of self-directed dying attended by proxies in the Dutch population. *Soc Sci Med*. 2009;68(10):1745-1751.

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97



98

reason **3**

99

VSED can **make**
patient eligible

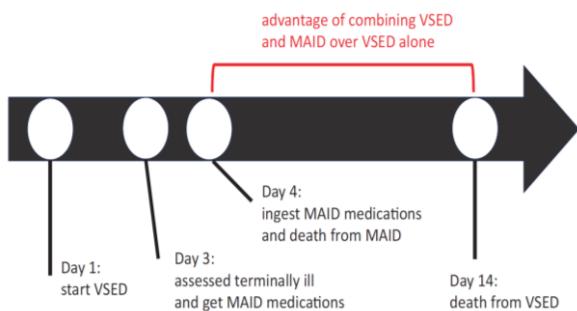
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VSED is not only
an alternative

101



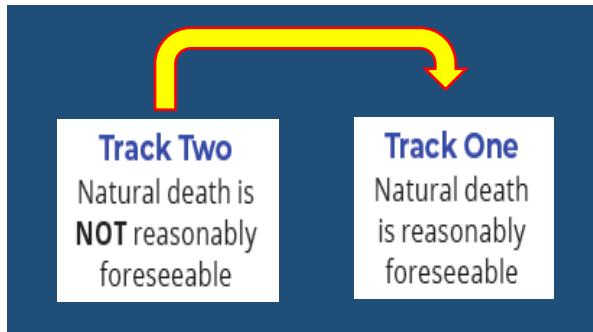
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waiting periods

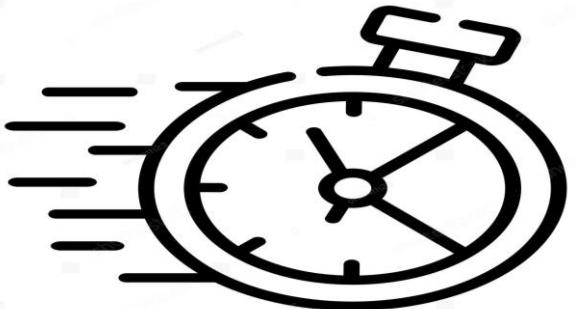
109

available clinician

110

even if legally available, not **practically**

111



112

VSED
accessible

MAID
accessible

113

reason 5

114

advance requests

115

even if MAID is legal
even if patient is eligible
even if MAID is accessible

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117

MAID while
still have
capacity

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119



120

too **soon**

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life **still**
worthwhile

122

earliness
problem

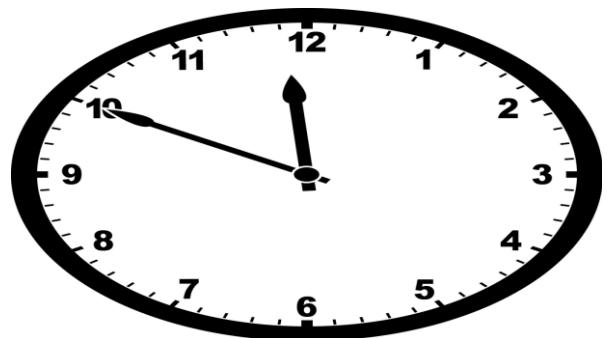
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126

but

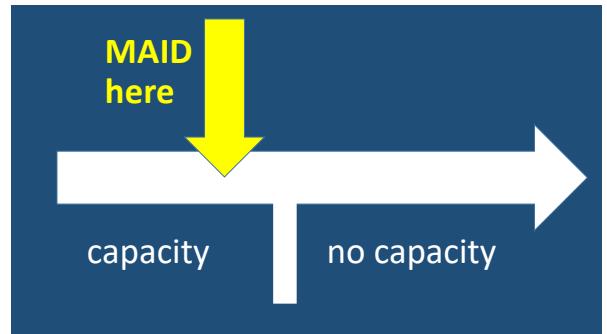
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WARNING

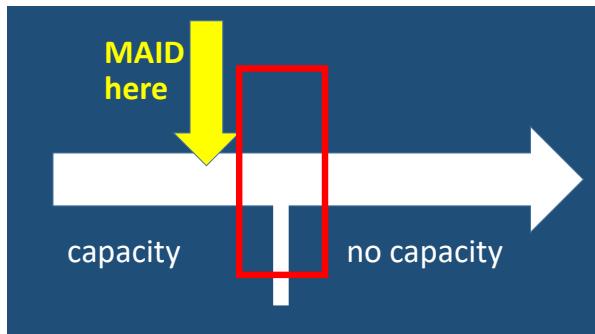
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131

premature
dying

132

current situation
still acceptable

133

MAID not a
good option

134

at this time

135

not ready
to die yet

136

concerned
about future
circumstances

137

lack capacity
at future time

138



139



140



141



142



143

contrast
VSED

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VSED ADs accepted

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146

VSED
AD

MAID AD

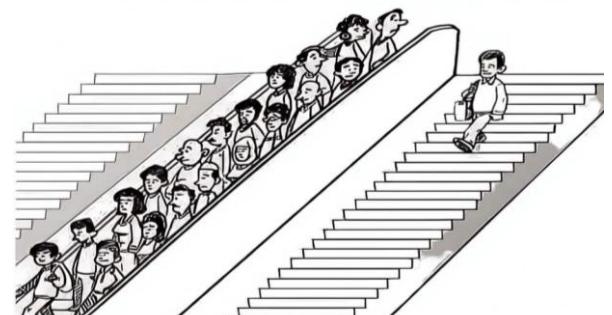
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reason 6

148

**prefer VSED
over MAID**

149



150



151

Wendy
Mitchell

“If assisted dying
was available ... I
would have chosen
it in a heartbeat”

152



153



154



155

conclusion

156



157



158



159



160



161



162



163



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**Compassion
in Dying.**
Your end of life. Your way.

**Voluntarily stopping eating
and drinking (VSED):
A call for
guidance**

(Thumbnail image of the article cover)

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**JPSM | JOURNAL OF
PAIN AND
SYMPTOM
MANAGEMENT**
Advancing Palliative Care, Hospice, and Symptom Research
March 2024 • Volume 86 • Number 3
(Thumbnail image of the journal cover)

**Clinical Guidelines
for Voluntarily
Stopping Eating and
Drinking (VSED)**

Nov. 2023

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HANDBELEID
**Zorg voor mensen die stoppen
met eten en drinken om het
levenseinde te bespoedigen**
Juni 2024

(Thumbnail image of the handbook cover)

**Caring for People
Who Stop Eating
and Drinking to
Hasten the End
of Life**

Jan. 2024

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Thaddeus Mason Pope, JD, PhD, HEC-C

Mitchell Hamline School of Law
875 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105
T 651-695-7661
C 310-270-3618
E Thaddeus.Pope@mitchellhamline.edu
W www.thaddeuspope.com
B medicalfutility.blogspot.com

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