Ipsos
Assisted Dying polling

July 2023
The below information was given to respondents before they answered the questions in this survey.

The next few questions are about assisted dying in the UK.

Assisted dying refers to a patient aged 18 or over being provided with life-ending medication if at least two doctors think that all the following conditions were met:

- The patient would need to be of sound mind,
- The patient would be terminally ill and it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live,
- The patient would have made a voluntary, clear and settled decision to end their life (and made and signed a declaration to that effect in the presence of a witness), with time to consider all other options,
- The patient has been resident in the country for at least a year,
- The High Court confirms it is satisfied that these conditions have been met,
- If the conditions are met, a health professional may help to prepare and assist with the medication, but the decision to self-administer the medicine and the final act of doing so must be taken by the patient themselves.

Assisted dying is not currently legal in the UK.
Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by **prescribing** life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient can take themselves, if all the conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves</th>
<th>No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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**Base:** 1,128 Online British adults aged 16-75, 14 – 16 July 2023. * Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).
Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by **administering** life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life, by the doctor **administering life-ending medication**, assuming that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met?*

- Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to administer life ending medication
- No, it should not be legal for a doctor to administer life-ending medication

**Base: 1,128** Online British adults aged 16-75, 14 – 16 July 2023. * Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).
Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a not terminally patient in ending their life by prescribing life ending medication if they are…?

Do you think that it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient (aged 18 or over in ending their life, if they are not terminally ill, but are physically suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life? Assume that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met.

And do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life, if they are not terminally ill, but are mentally or emotionally suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life? Assume that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met.*

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If they are physically suffering

- Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves: 58%
- No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves: 22%

If they are mentally or emotionally suffering

- Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves: 36%
- No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves: 40%

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How acceptable is it to break the law to assist someone to die?

To remind you, at the moment assisted dying is not legal in the UK. Euthanasia is illegal across the UK and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter*. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, assisting a suicide is also a crime.

How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for someone in England, Wales or Northern Ireland to break the law to assist someone they know who wanted to die?**

**Completely/mostly acceptable**

38%

**Neither acceptable nor unacceptable**

17%

**Completely/mostly unacceptable**

29%

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Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a patient aged under 18 who is terminally ill in ending their life by providing them with life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged under 18 in ending their life by providing them with life-ending medication, if that is the patient's wish, provided that the patient is terminally ill (where it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live), are physically suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, meet all the other conditions of assisted dying outlined above, and also have their parent’s or guardian’s consent?*

Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication

No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication

16-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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11-15

<table>
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<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tr>
<td>36%</td>
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Base: 1,128 Online British adults aged 16-75, 14 – 16 July 2023. * Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).
Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a patient aged under 18 who is not terminally ill in ending their life by providing them with life ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged under 18 in ending their life by providing them with life-ending medication, if that is the patient’s wish, where the patient is not terminally ill, but are physically suffering in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, meet all the other conditions of assisted dying outlined above, and also have their parent’s or guardian’s consent?*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>16-17</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td><strong>11-15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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How important is it for a patient under 18 to have consent from their parent/guardian if they want assistance with dying?

Now please imagine that assisted dying were to be made legal in the UK for patients aged under 18.

How important or not do you think it should be that a patient aged under 18 must have consent from their parent or guardian if they want assistance with dying, as a condition of it being legal?*

If the patient is aged....

16-17

- Very/fairly important: 58%
- Not very/not at all important: 11%
- I don’t think assisted dying should be made legal in any circumstances: 16%
- Don’t know/prefer not to say: 15%

11-15

- Very/fairly important: 60%
- Not very/not at all important: 6%
- I don’t think assisted dying should be made legal in any circumstances: 18%
- Don’t know/prefer not to say: 16%

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For more information

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