

Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience

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1 What is the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience?

The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience is a group of organizations who represent over 5,000 doctors. These groups are committed to protecting conscience rights for health practitioners and facilities

Our members include:

- The Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto
- The Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada
- The Catholic Organization for Life and Family
- The Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Societies
- The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
- Canadian Physicians for Life

2 What are the recommendations from the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying?

The Joint Parliamentary Committee has recommended that healthcare professionals be forced to refer and that publicly funded institutions must provide assisted suicide and euthanasia on their premises. The committee has also recommended that access to assisted suicide and euthanasia be given to minors and mentally ill.

3 Do the Committee recommendations protect conscience rights for healthcare practitioners or facilities?

No. The Committee recommendations do not protect the conscience rights of healthcare practitioners or facilities.

4 What should conscientiously objecting healthcare professionals not be forced to do?

1. Perform assisted death.
2. Refer a patient for an assessment, or refer to a third party for an assessment.
3. Contact the third party to tell them that a patient requires an assessment (as in the Quebec model).
4. Organize a transfer of care by finding another physician for the patient

5 What should conscientiously objecting healthcare facilities not be forced to do?

Perform physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia on their premises

6 What are conscientiously objecting healthcare providers prepared to do?

1. Commit to not obstructing patient access to legally available procedures, and not abandoning the patient
2. Continue to see a patient as physician of record in all other aspects of their care besides assisted death, provided that the patient directly accesses an assessment on their own after speaking to their physician.
3. Participate in a patient initiated transfer of medical care to a physician named by the patient. This includes a transfer of the medical chart to the new physician with consent of the patient. This means however that the physician-patient relationship between the conscientious objector and the patient is ended.
4. Upon receiving an inquiry about assisted death, inform patient of all legal medical options, including assisted death.

7 What are conscientiously objecting facilities prepared to do?

1. Upon receiving an inquiry about assisted death, inform patient of all legal medical options, including assisted death.
2. Transfer of patient to another facility if they decide to choose assisted death.

8 Do other foreign jurisdictions protect conscience rights?

Yes. No foreign jurisdiction that permits assisted suicide or euthanasia requires healthcare practitioners who conscientiously object participate in the procedure in any way, other than to require physicians to transfer the patient's file after a patient initiated transfer request.