

Checklist

Voluntary Assisted Dying in Acute Hospitals



- Are you aware of your organisation's current policies and procedures regarding Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD)? Seek out this information and make sure your colleagues are aware of it too.
- Are you aware of your state's legislation regarding initiating VAD discussions? Familiarise yourself with the legislation for different healthcare professionals.
- Check what VAD services are available within your hospital or health service. Make sure you know how to contact VAD Care Navigator Services within your state or territory.
- Reflect on your own personal position when it comes to VAD. Think about how your personal views impact on your professional responsibilities.
- Do you feel confident distinguishing when a patient is making a clear, unambiguous request for VAD, from a more informal discussion around symptom management or end of life? Review the scenarios within the VAD module and, if still unsure, seek further clarification from the VAD Care Navigator Services within your state or territory.
- Are you familiar with the rights of a VAD conscientious objector? Make sure you understand the difference between the right to refuse participation in the VAD process, and obstructing the patient from making end-of-life choices.
- Become familiar with the CARE mnemonic: Clarify, Acknowledge, Respond (within your role), Escalate (when appropriate).



Checklist

Voluntary Assisted Dying in Acute Hospitals

- Tell your colleagues about the End-of-Life Essentials [Education Modules](#) and [Toolkits](#). Add communication around VAD to your team meeting agenda. Make a training request via your supervisor, or via your organisation's training manager, for specific workplace training.
- What strategies do you have in place to manage conflict that may arise around VAD within your team? Consider holding regular team debriefing meetings where you can discuss processes around VAD. You may want to do this after a patient on the VAD pathway has been cared for within your hospital or unit.
- Explore your own experience of dealing prioritise self-care. What are some self-care strategies you can put in place both at work and outside of work? Visit: <https://www.caresearch.com.au/Health-Professionals/Nurses/Personal-Development/Self-Care/Self-Care-Strategies>
- For more comprehensive training and information around VAD visit the [QUT End of Life Law website](#).

For more resources visit the End-of-Life Essentials website:

<https://www.endoflifeessentials.com.au/>

Resources

Voluntary Assisted Dying in Acute Hospitals

Palliative Care Australia (PCA): [Voluntary Assisted Dying in Australia: Guiding principles for those providing care to people living with a life-limiting illness.](#)

Palliative Care South Australia: [Practising self-care.](#)

Go Gentle Australia: [Information on VAD for health professionals](#)

End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC): [Overview of Voluntary Assisted Dying](#)

End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC): [Self-care room – Raise your understanding](#)

Roles and obligations of different healthcare professionals

- Registered Nurses - End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC): [Voluntary assisted dying in aged care: Roles and obligations of registered nurses.](#)
- Medical Practitioners - End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC): [Voluntary assisted dying in aged care: Roles and obligations of medical practitioners.](#)
- Allied Health Professionals and Enrolled Nurses - End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC): [Voluntary assisted dying in aged care: Roles and obligations of allied health professionals and enrolled nurses.](#)

Resources

Voluntary Assisted Dying in Acute Hospitals

VAD Statewide Care Navigator Services

Victoria: [Victorian VAD Statewide Care Navigator Service](#)

Western Australia: [WA VAD Statewide Care Navigator Service](#)

Tasmania: [Tasmanian Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigation Service](#)

South Australia: [South Australian VAD Care Navigator Service \(SAVAD-CNS\)](#)

Queensland: [Queensland VAD Support Service \(QVAD-Support\)](#)

New South Wales: [NSW VAD Care Navigator Service](#)

Further Reading

Close, E., Willmott, L., Keogh, L., & White, B. P. (2023). Institutional Objection to Voluntary Assisted Dying in Victoria, Australia: An Analysis of Publicly Available Policies. *J Bioeth Inq*, 20(3), 467-484. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-023-10271-6>

Digby, R., McDougall, R., Gold, M., Ko, D., O'Driscoll, L., & Bucknall, T. (2022). Introducing Voluntary Assisted Dying: Staff Perspectives in an Acute Hospital. *Int J Health Policy Manag*, 11(6), 777-785. <https://doi.org/10.34172/ijhpm.2020.216>

Haining, C. M., & Keogh, L. A. (2021). "I haven't had to bare my soul but now I kind of have to": describing how Voluntary Assisted Dying conscientious objectors anticipated approaching conversations with patients in Victoria, Australia. *BMC Medical Ethics*, 22(1), 149. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-021-00717-0>

Shadd, P., & Shadd, J. (2019). Institutional non-participation in assisted dying: Changing the conversation. *Bioethics*, 33(1), 207–214. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bioe.12528>

Waller, K., Del Villar, K., Willmott, L., & White, B. P. (2023). [Voluntary Assisted Dying in Australia: A comparative and critical analysis of state laws](#). University of New South Wales Law Journal, 46(4), 1-45.

White, B. P., Willmott, L., Close, E., & Downie, J. (2021). [Legislative options to address institutional objections to Voluntary Assisted Dying in Australia](#). University of New South Wales Law Journal (3).