



**MN Alliance for Ethical Healthcare**  
*Ensuring real care throughout life's journey*

Here is a summary regarding the American Medical Association's 2019 decision reaffirming their opposition to Physician-Assisted Suicide:

**#1: The Code of ethics was not amended and continues to state: "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.**

Instead of engaging in assisted suicide, physicians must aggressively respond to the needs of patients at the end of life. Physicians: (a) Should not abandon a patient once it is determined that cure is impossible. (b) Must respect patient autonomy. (c) Must provide good communication and emotional support. (d) Must provide appropriate comfort care and adequate pain control."

**#2: The use of the term "physician-assisted suicide" is correct.**

As stated in the full report hyperlinked below on page 6 of 33: "CEJA believes ethical deliberation and debate is best served by using plainly descriptive language. In the council's view, despite its negative connotations, the term "physician-assisted suicide" describes the practice with the greatest precision. Most importantly, it clearly distinguishes the practice from euthanasia. The terms "aid in dying" or "death with dignity" could be used to describe either euthanasia or palliative/hospice care at the end of life and this degree of ambiguity is unacceptable for providing ethical guidance."

**#3: After extensive review for years, this policy was approved in 2019 by greater than 80% of the over 600 elected delegates from every state and specialty. This was not a close decision.**

AMA full report outlining their position that, "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.": <https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/5.7%20Physician-assisted%20suicide%20--%20background%20reports.pdf>

AMA's medical ethics landing page for physician-assisted suicide (opinion 5.7): <https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/physician-assisted-suicide>

**Learn more at [EthicalCareMN.org](https://EthicalCareMN.org)**

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