

Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Psychiatrists' joint statement on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

The following statement was sent to all MPs on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Psychiatrists on the 12th June 2025 to inform all remaining stages in the House of Commons.

It followed both Colleges raising concerns ahead of the first session of report stage in an RCP position statement and RCPsych briefing respectively:

- [RCP position statement on the Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill, 9th May 2025](#)
- [RCPsych briefing on the Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill, 13 May 2025](#)

The statement reads:

Ahead of the second session of report stage and expected third reading tomorrow Friday 13 June 2025, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) are writing to share a joint statement on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill for England and Wales.

We believe that it is essential that the current bill, decisions that patients may make, and requirements of doctors are considered in the current context of the NHS and healthcare in England and Wales, especially the current access, availability and inequity of services for people who may be terminally ill.

Both RCP and RCPsych are neutral on assisted dying, our members hold a diverse range of views, however we believe that there are deficiencies in the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill currently which must be addressed to achieve adequate protection of patients and professionals.

Our shared concerns specifically include:

- *The way doctors and healthcare professionals would be expected to work. Taking critical decisions alone would not happen in any other aspect of clinical practice. Doctors' core duties and expertise are in the diagnosis and treatment of patients as part of the multidisciplinary team. Complex clinical decisions are and must be made in this way, and through face to face assessments.*
- *The Mental Capacity Act does not provide a framework for assessing a person's capacity to decide to end their own life.*
- *Vulnerable patients particularly those with remediable mental health or other unmet needs, are not adequately protected by the current bill.*
- *The NHS workforce does not currently have the resource required to meet these additional demands.*

The RCP and RCPsych together represent approximately 42,000 physicians and psychiatrists in England and in Wales. While the ultimate decision on assisted dying rests with society through

parliament, professional and clinical issues are integral to legislation, regulation, guidance and safe and effective implementation on this matter.

The RCP adopted [a neutral position on assisted dying in 2019 following a survey of its members](#), reflecting the range of views across its membership, which we aim to represent . This means that the RCP neither supports nor opposes a change in the law.

RCPsych members hold a [diverse range of views on the principle of assisted dying](#). The RCPsych therefore does not take a position on the principle of the issue.

Dr Mumtaz Patel, president of the Royal College of Physicians

Dr Lade Smith CBE, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

The Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Psychiatrists, June 2025.