**Euthanasia**

Student’s Name:

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Date:

**Definition of Euthanasia**

Euthanasia is an act or practice of intentionally killing, ending, or terminating a patient’s life to limit their suffering from painful disease. This intentional act of causing the death of a terminally ill patient is only executed by a health practitioner (Hromovchuk & Byelov, 2020). The word comes from the Greek *euthanatos*, which means “easy death”. The idea is that instead of condemning someone to a slow, painful, or undignified death, euthanasia would allow the patient to experience a relatively “good death. There are different practices of euthanasia. (Brassington, 2020). Unlike active euthanasia, where a specific action is taken to end a patient's life, passive euthanasia involves the omission or cessation of treatment. Withholding treatment is an example of passive euthanasia which occurs when a health professional decides not to start a particular treatment or medical intervention that could possibly extend a patient’s life. Another example of passive euthanasia is withdrawal of treatment where a previously initiated medical treatment is discontinued. This might involve turning off a life-support machine, stopping medication, or ceasing other forms of medical intervention.

Other than passive euthanasia, there is voluntary euthanasia which refers to the act of intentionally ending a person's life at their explicit request and with their informed consent. A lethal drug is administered to end their life (Kresin et al., 2021). In this context, the individual who wishes to end their life is typically experiencing a terminal illness, unbearable suffering, or a condition that significantly compromises their quality of life. Voluntary euthanasia is often discussed within the broader framework of assisted dying or physician-assisted. There are several examples of voluntary euthanasia. One example is informed consent where the patient is fully informed about their medical condition, the potential consequences of euthanasia, and any available alternative treatment. The decision to undergo euthanasia must be made voluntarily and without coercion. (Ekkelet al., 2022). In addition, voluntary euthanasia is also considered in cases of terminal illnesses or unbearable suffering.

Although voluntary euthanasia varies widely around the world, the ethical and moral considerations surrounding voluntary euthanasia are complex and often involve discussion about individual autonomy and the role of the healthcare profession in end-of-life decisions. Whether voluntary or otherwise it is significantly based on cultural, religious, and philosophical perspectives while others maintain strict prohibitions some countries and states have legalized it under specific conditions while in Florida it is still an open discussion on whether to permit the act of euthanasia because of the large number of elderly people in the state. **Apart from voluntary euthanasia, euthanasia can also be Involuntary. Involuntary euthanasia** refers to the act of terminating a patient’s life without the consent of the patient (Robertson, 2019). For instance, if the patient is unconscious and their wishes are unknown. In some cases, the patient might be too young to die but has been in a coma or unconscious for a very long time and cannot give informed consent. There have been other forms of involuntary euthanasia like nonconsensual medical experiments. Where individuals often vulnerable populations such as prisoners or marginalized groups, are subjected to nonconsensual medical experiments that result in their death. While not always explicitly labeled as euthanasia, these actions involve causing harm without the person's consent.

In occurrence to so many occasions there are questionable end-of-life decisions In healthcare. This situation normally involves disputes among family members or healthcare professionals about the best course of action in case of severe illnesses or injuries the patient may have. When it comes to this kind of decision making it raises serious moral, ethical, and legal concerns because of the act of ending a person's life without their explicit and informed consent. It is generally regarded as unethical and illegal in many jurisdictions. Contemporary medical ethics emphasizes sharing decision-making and respecting patients' or individual choices and dignity when it comes to the context of life care. Historical examples such as eugenic programs and non-consensual medical experiments. Highlights the potential of grave abuse, because these instances underscore the need to safeguard a person's life

As much as all these reasons might seem justifiable, they have raised a lot of mixed reactions from the people to the government whether it is ethical or non-ethical. However, in Florida, it is considered a death with dignity law that would permit or allow terminally ill patients to request life termination as it is also considered by other states as the right to die or assisted suicide. In 2020 Florida lawmakers proposed to pass a death with dignity law for the first time. (Stringfield, 2021). In attempted again in 2023 called the Florida Dying with Dignity Bill Act. Although it is still a subject of debate among policymakers, ethicists, healthcare professionals, and the general public some places have legalized assisted dying. There are procedures set aside in order to be allowed to participate in or request euthanasia like a patient must be 18 years of age or older, and must be capable of making and communicating health care decisions personally. Have a terminal illness that will lead to death in six or fewer months but it is up to the attending practitioner to determine one's case. Euthanasia can only be performed by a licensed medical doctor or an osteopathic doctor that are willing to do the practice since there is no law that binds them to grant a patient request it depends on one's moral or ethical beliefs because sometimes it might vary between the patient and practitioner

After the patient has met the criteria to administer euthanasia. There are several requirements or regulations that have to be followed before admission to euthanasia. (Verhofstadt et al., 2019).Tow oral request must be made to the attending physician separated by at least 15 or more days A requirement is a written request to the attending physician, signed in the presence of two witnesses, at least one of whom is not related to the patient an in a situation that the doctor might believe that the patients judgment is influenced or impaired by a psychiatrist or psychological disorder the doctor will request a psychological examination in order to determine if the patient is capable of making and communicating health care decision personally and of sound mind. Once the patient has met all the requirements then they can go ahead and administer euthanasia. Which waiting period does not exceed their life expectancy sometimes it can be less that less than 48 48-hour waiting period between a patient's written request depending on the progression of the terminal illness.

However, a patient even after requesting euthanasia and meeting all the criteria required is still allowed to rescind their request anytime in any manner in case one has a change of mind or wishes to continue living or chooses a natural death. (Verhofstadt ,2019) As long as he is not a threat to himself or to others in cases like mental issues or dementia. Also known as revoked euthanasia or cancelled it happens in different ways like a patient might regain consciousness in cases of a prolonged coma or might start recovering from a terminal illness.

**Conclusion**

A person's life is very valuable and important yet there are situations that bring consideration of ending one life in cases of immense pain for a fatal accident or Incident assisted death will often be viewed as a compassionate and loving way to end someone's life but in cases of illness, a compassionate or loving thing to do is to take care of the patient and show them their life has tremendous value regardless of age or abilities. Some of the patients opt for euthanasia because they feel that they are a burden to others. After all, treating the illness is too costly which may lead to fear of financial, emotional, or care burden to others. Fear and anxiety might lead to such a decision because not everyone who is terminally ill wishes to end their life, there is no life that is degraded, debased, or deteriorated every life deserves respect and is not worth defending with zeal and conviction.

In a state where the decision to end one life was not consented to by the patient especially when it comes to illness should be considered illegal despite the condition as long as the person can speak and understand the condition or state they are in. It is an obligation of a doctor or a service provider to withhold any information and options available like pain control treatment and psychological help one can get. The decision to end life can only be consented to by the patient if the law permit and have undergone all the necessary procedure to evaluate the condition of the patient. But in cases where the patient is unable to consent because of unconsciousness and terminal sedation, withholding or withdrawal of treatment is administered with the intension to hastening death can be considered legal,

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