



End of life decisions concern our ability to make choices concerning the end of our lives and take of the form of refusal of life sustaining treatment, being help in committing suicide, choosing euthanasia, and make choices that must be upheld even when the person becomes unconscious. As Young (2010) noted, "People have an interest in making important decisions about their lives in accordance with their own conception of how they want their lives to go."

Approach

To measure the degree of freedom that a person enjoys with regard to deciding how her life should end, we identified the key decisions that express such freedom as they involve an exercise of autonomy that binds health care professionals.

The freedom to request that active euthanasia is performed
The freedom to request that passive euthanasia is performed
The freedom to be assisted in committing suicide
The freedom to refuse treatment
The freedom to issues specific directive that bind health care professionals in the future



Data sources

Data were collected from the following sources:

Aksoy, Sahin. "Ethical Considerations on End of Life Issues in Turkey (in Bioethics in Asia in the 21st Century)." <http://www.eubios.info/ABC4/abc4079.htm> | de Cruz, Peter. Comparative Healthcare Law. London, Sidney: Cavendish Publishing Ltd., 2001. | Griffiths, John, Heleen Weyers, and Maurice Adams. Euthanasia and Law in Europe. Oxford; Portland, OR: Hart, 2008. | Jox, R. J., S. Michalowski, J. Lorenz, and J. Schildmann. "Substitute Decision Making in Medicine: Comparative Analysis of the Ethico-Legal Discourse in England and Germany." *Med Health Care Philos* 11, no. 2 (2008): 153-63. | Keown, John. Euthanasia Examined: Ethical, Clinical, and Legal Perspectives. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995. | Mendelson, Danuta, and Timothy Stoltzfus Jost. "A Comparative Study of the Law of Palliative Care and End-of-Life Treatment." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 31, no. 1 (2003): 130. | Pridgeon, J. Lucy. "Euthanasia Legislation in the European Union: Is a Universal Law Possible?" *Hanse Law Review* 2, no. 1 (2006): 45-59. | Scherer, Jennifer M., and Rita J. Simon. Euthanasia and the Right to Die: A Comparative View. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1999. | Nicol, Julia, Marlisa Tiedemann, and Dominique Valiquet. "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: International Experiences." <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/lop/researchpublications/2011-67-e.htm> | Young, Robert. "Voluntary Euthanasia." <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/euthanasia-voluntary/>

Measurement questions

- Is passive euthanasia lawful?
- Is active euthanasia lawful?
- Is physician-assisted suicide lawful?
- Are advance directives (AD) enforceable?
- Is a physician required to respect a patient's refusal of life-sustaining treatment?



End of Life

List Nations	Tot	%
Albania	40	60,00%
Argentina	60	80,00%
Australia	40	100,00%
Austria	80	100,00%
Belgium	100	100,00%
Bulgaria	0	20,00%
Canada	80	100,00%
China	26	100,00%
Colombia	40	40,00%
Croatia	6	80,00%
Denmark	53	100,00%
Dominican Republic	0	60,00%
Egypt	0	80,00%
Finland	73	100,00%
France	60	100,00%
Germany	80	100,00%
Greece	40	100,00%
Hungary	40	100,00%
Iceland	40	100,00%
India	13	100,00%

List Nations	Tot	%
Iran	6	100,00%
Ireland	60	100,00%
Israel	13	20,00%
Italy	26	100,00%
Japan	66	100,00%
South Korea	13	80,00%
Luxembourg	60	60,00%
Mexico	60	100,00%
Netherlands	100	100,00%
New Zealand	40	100,00%
Norway	6	100,00%
Philippines	6	100,00%
Poland	20	100,00%
Portugal	33	100,00%
Romania	26	100,00%
Slovenia	40	80,00%
South Africa	20	100,00%
Spain	40	100,00%
Sweden	60	100,00%
Switzerland	53	100,00%



End of Life

List Nations	Tot	%
Taiwan	46	100,00%
Tunisia	0	60.00%
Turkey	33	100,00%
United Kingdom	53	100,00%
United States	60	100,00%
Vietnam	0	60,00%
Yemen	0	100.00%

