

RCGP, 2019 Assisted Dying Membership Consultation, Unweighted Data Tables – 17th March 2020

Methodology: Savanta ComRes interviewed 6,674 RCGP members online between 29th October and 15th December 2019. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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RCGP 2019 Assisted Dying Membership Consultation
Online fieldwork: 29th October - 15th December 2019

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Q1. Across the UK, under current laws in each country, assisted dying is illegal. The Royal College of General Practitioners has decided to consult its members on what its position on assisted dying should be. The College takes positions on significant ethical issues to ensure that it can influence the debate around government policy in the best interests of its members and our patients. Please select one of the following statements: Base: All respondents	
Table 2	2
Q2. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be. I think that the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying because: Base: All who said the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying	
Table 3	4
Q3. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be. I think that the RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place, because: Base: All who said the RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding processes in place	
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Table 1

Q1. Across the UK, under current laws in each country, assisted dying is illegal. The Royal College of General Practitioners has decided to consult its members on what its position on assisted dying should be. The College takes positions on significant ethical issues to ensure that it can influence the debate around government policy in the best interests of its members and our patients. Please select one of the following statements:

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
The RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying	3144 47%
The RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding processes in place	2684 40%
The RCGP should be neutral on the topic of the law on assisted dying	701 11%
I wish to abstain	145 2%

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Table 2
Q2. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be.
I think that the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying because:
Base: All who said the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying

	Total
Total	3144 100%
Changing the law may put vulnerable patients at risk	2812 89%
I do not agree that medical professionals should be involved in assisted dying	2291 73%
I have a moral objection to assisted dying	2083 66%
I have an objection to assisted dying because of my religious beliefs	1668 53%
Any benefit to the autonomy of the individual is outweighed by the potential harm to the doctor-patient relationship	1445 46%
I do not think there is the resource in the NHS or relevant regulatory bodies to provide or oversee the delivery of assisted dying	1173 37%
I worry that legalising assisted dying might lead to other state interventions into healthcare	1155 37%
Any change in the law should come from society or politicians and the RCGP should not take a position on matters such as this	226 7%
Other	333 11%

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Table 2 (continuation)

Q2. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be.

I think that the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying because:

Base: All who said the RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying

	<u>Total</u>
Total	3144 100%
I prefer not to say	11 *

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Table 3

Q3. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be.

I think that the RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place, because:

Base: All who said the RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding processes in place

	Total
Total	2684 100%
People should have choice and agency over their own life	2251 84%
By supporting a change in the law RCGP can be involved in planning the practice of assisted dying	2098 78%
Legalising assisted dying allows regulation of something which people may take upon themselves or have family members help them do	2005 75%
This is primarily a societal issue and in my opinion society has moved on and wants a change in the law	1401 52%
Other	234 9%
I prefer not to say	12 *

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Table 4
Q4. Please select all the reasons that support your view on what the College's position on assisted dying should be. I think that the RCGP should be neutral on the topic of the law on assisted dying because:
Base: All who said the RCGP should be neutral on the topic of the law on assisted dying

	Total
Total	701 100%
The RCGP should be able to represent the views of all of its members irrespective of whether they oppose or support a change in the law	414 59%
It is unclear what the legal and practical frameworks for assisted dying would be	401 57%
The RCGP could serve the interests of its members better by being neutral on this issue when influencing the planning of care and regulation	328 47%
I believe the medical professions should allow legislators to form their own opinion on this and decide whether and how to change the law	212 30%
It is not the RCGP's place to take a firm position on a societal issue	199 28%
This issue is too contentious for the RCGP to take a position on	129 18%
Other	53 8%
I prefer not to say	8 1%

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Table 5

Q5. If assisted dying were to be legalised, what level of involvement, if any, do you think GPs should have in the process (provided that they do not conscientiously object to taking part)?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
GPs should be responsible for referring a patient to a specialist team or clinic as a first step in the process of assisted dying	2994 45%
GPs should support or counsel a patient and their family, friends and companions whilst they are making any decision on assisted dying	2797 42%
GPs should provide verification as to a patient's eligibility for assisted dying, such as legal or written testimony	1079 16%
GPs should be responsible for prescribing drugs for assisted dying (provided that a formal verification process is in place)	476 7%
No model of assisted dying should involve GPs at any level	2322 35%
Other	360 5%
Prefer not to say	178 3%

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Table 6

D1. Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
Male	2839 43%
Female	3674 55%
In another way	10 *
Prefer not to say	151 2%

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Table 7

D2. In which age band do you fall?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
18-24	108 2%
25-34	1731 26%
35-44	1705 26%
45-54	1359 20%
55-64	1114 17%
65+	532 8%
Prefer not to say	125 2%
NETS	
Net: 18-34	1839 28%
Net: 35-54	3064 46%
Net: 55+	1646 25%

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Table 8

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
Wales - North Wales Faculty	65 1%
Wales - South East Wales Faculty	141 2%
Wales - South West Wales Faculty	75 1%
Scotland - East Scotland Faculty	111 2%
Scotland - North East Scotland Faculty	118 2%
Scotland - North Scotland Faculty	100 1%
Scotland - South East Scotland Faculty	175 3%
Scotland - West Scotland Faculty	315 5%
Northern Ireland	181 3%
Republic of Ireland	55 1%
England - Beds and Herts Faculty	121 2%
England - Cumbria Faculty	60 1%
England - East Anglia Faculty	338 5%
England - Essex Faculty	94 1%
England - Humber and Ridings Faculty	72 1%

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Table 8 (continuation)

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
England - Leicester Faculty	103 2%
England - Mersey Faculty	166 2%
England - Midland Faculty	760 11%
England - North and West London Faculty	190 3%
England - North East England Faculty	304 5%
England - North East London Faculty	173 3%
England - North West England Faculty	468 7%
England - Severn Faculty	290 4%
England - South East Thames Faculty	305 5%
England - South London Faculty	225 3%
England - South West Thames Faculty	160 2%
England - South Yorkshire North Trent Faculty	117 2%
England - Tamar Faculty	143 2%
England - Thames Valley Faculty	218 3%
England - Vale of Trent Faculty	120 2%

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Table 8 (continuation)

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
England - Wessex Faculty	364 5%
England - Yorkshire Faculty	352 5%
Don't know	187 3%
No response	8 *
NETS	
Net: England	5143 77%
Net: Scotland	819 12%
Net: Wales	281 4%
Net: UK	6424 96%

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Table 9

Member Grade
Base: All respondents

	Total
Total	6674 100%
Member	2912 44%
Associate in training	1606 24%
First 5	959 14%
Fellow	863 13%
Student	191 3%
Foundation Doctor Programme	72 1%
Associate	71 1%
NETS	
Net: Student/ Foundation Doctor Programme/ Associate in training	1869 28%
Net: Member/ Fellow/ Associate	3846 58%