Implementation of the VAD legislation at Bendigo Health

Meagan Adams
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Health Issues Centre

Voluntary Assisted Dying Game Show™
Keep it patient focussed
Enablers

• Chill out this is what we already do!
• Be aware of your own bias's
• Use DHHS and VHA documents
• Learn from implementation of MTPD Act 2016
• Network and share resources
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task Notes</th>
<th>Task Name</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
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<td>VAD Workshop</td>
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<td>Industry assisted dying working group need epgs</td>
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<td>Engage ePR</td>
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<td>Communication Plan</td>
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<td>Send survey to staff</td>
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<td>Review survey</td>
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<td>LAC engagement and consultation</td>
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<td>Develop VAD policy</td>
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<td>Engage ePR/ VAD IF scanned documents</td>
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<td>Provide patient information materials</td>
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<td>Undertake consultation</td>
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Communication and Education

- Intranet page
- VHA sessions
- Staff education
  - Ground rounds
  - In-services
  - HIC game
- 3 main messages:

**Very important points**

The Act upholds the status of 'conscientious objectors' (includes Registered Health Practitioners)

VAD discussions may NOT be initiated by Registered Health Practitioners

Only specialist medical practitioners, including GPs, can be the Co-ordinating or Consulting Medical Practitioners who conduct the assessment process and prescribe the medication
Level of participation decision

**Pathway A: Single Service**

If your health service is willing to participate, you will need to prepare by establishing comprehensive policies, protocols and pathways for your health service. To prepare for the Act:

- complete the tools in the Information and Support box
- identify how you will respond and who is responsible for VAD, including clinical documentation protocols
- determine whether you will receive referrals for VAD and how this will occur
- ensure appropriate staff support is available

**Pathway B: Partnership Service**

If your health service is willing to participate, identify what you can provide. How you will manage requests and where you may need to establish partnerships with other health services.

To prepare for the Act:

- complete the tools in the Information and Support box
- identify how you will respond and who is responsible for VAD, including clinical documentation protocols
- determine whether you will receive referrals for VAD and how this will occur
- ensure appropriate staff support is available

**Pathway C: Information and Support Service**

It is likely that your health service will not be in a position to provide VAD. Prepare by ensuring there is appropriate information and support in place. Ensure that staff:

- have access to information about VAD
- know how to respond to preliminary requests about VAD
- know whom to direct patients to for information sources
- know how to respond if a patient brings the VAD medicare into the service
- are aware of options to connect patients to other medical or other health practitioners who will further assess
- the role of the care advisory line or VAD Care Navigators

Regional partner referral / GPs

Regional partner referral / GPS / Bendigo Health

Bendigo Health / Metro

**Survey**

Does your health service currently provide care to people with advanced and progressive disease and people who are at the end of their life (either internally or in partnership with other services)?

No

Yes

Does your health service have staff willing to participate in voluntary assisted dying?

No

Yes

Does your health service have appropriately qualified staff who are willing to conduct eligibility assessments and provide care and support?

No

Yes

Identify which specialist services the health service provides. Are there specialist available for the patient’s disease?

EOIs

Bendigo Health Board

Excellent Care. Every Person. Every Time.
Challenges

• Ethics for staff survey
• Unknown response of the staff and community
• Regional services consideration
  • Many facilities are managed by GPs
  • Only 1-2 GPs in the town
Future considerations

• Referral process
  • Internally
  • Externally

• Resourcing
  • Managing enquiries
  • Acting as a co-ordinating or consulting practitioner for new patients

• How we manage patient’s with the medication within the organisation

• Staff and community response
For further information contact:

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