

RESOLUTION 01.2020-43 (A-20)
NEUTRAL STANCE ON MEDICAL AID IN DYING

ISMS Board Action Taken on 01/25/2020

Did not adopt Resolution 01.2020-43 (A-20).

Medical Legal Council Recommendation to ISMS Board on 01/25/2020

The Council acknowledged the complexity and divisiveness of this issue, as well as the existence of cogent arguments on both sides, but shared the concern expressed by some survey commenters that this issue could take ISMS down a “slippery slope.” Although the Council is sympathetic to the concerns of the author and supportive of the provision of palliative care to patients who are in hospice and/or have an otherwise terminal condition, the Council noted the recent reaffirmation of long-standing ISMS policy against physician participation in active euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, and ultimately agreed that the position of “engaged neutrality” called for in the resolution is inconsistent with ISMS’ stance on this issue.

The Medical Legal Council recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees not adopt Resolution 01.2020-43 (A-20).