

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

Methodology: Savanta ComRes interviewed 6,674 RCGP members online between 29th October and 15th December 2019. Data were weighted to be representative of the RCGP membership in the UK by member grade and early career status. 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
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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
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
The RCGP should oppose a change in the law on assisted dying	3071 46%
The RCGP should support a change in the law on assisted dying, providing there is a regulatory framework and appropriate safeguarding processes in place	2744 41%
The RCGP should be neutral on the topic of the law on assisted dying	696 10%
I wish to abstain	163 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
Unweighted Total	3144
Weighted Total	3071 100%
Changing the law may put vulnerable patients at risk	2723 89%
I do not agree that medical professionals should be involved in assisted dying	2223 72%
I have a moral objection to assisted dying	2050 67%
I have an objection to assisted dying because of my religious beliefs	1669 54%
Any benefit to the autonomy of the individual is outweighed by the potential harm to the doctor-patient relationship	1361 44%
I do not think there is the resource in the NHS or relevant regulatory bodies to provide or oversee the delivery of assisted dying	1141 37%
I worry that legalising assisted dying might lead to other state interventions into healthcare	1132 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	207 7%

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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

	Total
Unweighted Total	3144
Weighted Total	3071
	100%
Other	310
	10%
I prefer not to say	12
	*

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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
Unweighted Total	2684
Weighted Total	2744 100%
People should have choice and agency over their own life	2310 84%
By supporting a change in the law RCGP can be involved in planning the practice of assisted dying	2127 77%
Legalising assisted dying allows regulation of something which people may take upon themselves or have family members help them do	2036 74%
This is primarily a societal issue and in my opinion society has moved on and wants a change in the law	1370 50%
Other	228 8%
I prefer not to say	15 1%

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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
Unweighted Total	701
Weighted Total	696
	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	402 58%
It is unclear what the legal and practical frameworks for assisted dying would be	394 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	315 45%
I believe the medical professions should allow legislators to form their own opinion on this and decide whether and how to change the law	196 28%
It is not the RCGP's place to take a firm position on a societal issue	189 27%
This issue is too contentious for the RCGP to take a position on	127 18%
Other	50 7%
I prefer not to say	10 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
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted 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	3066 46%
GPs should support or counsel a patient and their family, friends and companions whilst they are making any decision on assisted dying	2813 42%
GPs should provide verification as to a patient's eligibility for assisted dying, such as legal or written testimony	1075 16%
GPs should be responsible for prescribing drugs for assisted dying (provided that a formal verification process is in place)	479 7%
No model of assisted dying should involve GPs at any level	2273 34%
Other	330 5%
Prefer not to say	196 3%

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Table 6

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

Base: All respondents

	<u>Total</u>
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
Male	2760 41%
Female	3743 56%
In another way	11 *
Prefer not to say	161 2%

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Table 7

D2. In which age band do you fall?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
18-24	146 2%
25-34	2197 33%
35-44	1716 26%
45-54	1164 17%
55-64	900 13%
65+	425 6%
Prefer not to say	126 2%
NETS	
Net: 18-34	2342 35%
Net: 35-54	2880 43%
Net: 55+	1326 20%

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Table 8

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
Wales - North Wales Faculty	63 1%
Wales - South East Wales Faculty	136 2%
Wales - South West Wales Faculty	76 1%
Scotland - East Scotland Faculty	108 2%
Scotland - North East Scotland Faculty	116 2%
Scotland - North Scotland Faculty	99 1%
Scotland - South East Scotland Faculty	171 3%
Scotland - West Scotland Faculty	303 5%
Northern Ireland	174 3%
Republic of Ireland	55 1%
England - Beds and Herts Faculty	111 2%
England - Cumbria Faculty	55 1%
England - East Anglia Faculty	332 5%
England - Essex Faculty	93 1%
England - Humber and Ridings Faculty	69 1%

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Table 8 (continuation)

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
England - Leicester Faculty	104 2%
England - Mersey Faculty	158 2%
England - Midland Faculty	804 12%
England - North and West London Faculty	192 3%
England - North East England Faculty	317 5%
England - North East London Faculty	179 3%
England - North West England Faculty	487 7%
England - Severn Faculty	293 4%
England - South East Thames Faculty	282 4%
England - South London Faculty	230 3%
England - South West Thames Faculty	158 2%
England - South Yorkshire North Trent Faculty	115 2%
England - Tamar Faculty	141 2%
England - Thames Valley Faculty	215 3%

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Table 8 (continuation)

D3. To which college faculty do you belong?

Base: All respondents

	Total
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
England - Vale of Trent Faculty	112 2%
England - Wessex Faculty	358 5%
England - Yorkshire Faculty	359 5%
Don't know	202 3%
No response	9 *
NETS	
Net: England	5163 77%
Net: Scotland	796 12%
Net: Wales	275 4%
Net: UK	6408 96%

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Table 9

Member Grade
Base: All respondents

	Total
Unweighted Total	6674
Weighted Total	6674 100%
Member	2323 35%
Associate in training	2165 32%
First 5	1086 16%
Fellow	689 10%
Student	257 4%
Foundation Doctor Programme	97 1%
Associate	57 1%
NETS	
Net: Student/ Foundation Doctor Programme/ Associate in training	2519 38%
Net: Member/ Fellow/ Associate	3069 46%