



Dear friends of the [American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying](https://www.acamaid.org/),

Welcome to the Academy's intermittent newsletter about updates and activities.

Brief updates:

- Free continuing education credits will continue indefinitely: The Academy's no-fee policy for continuing education credits to nurses, social workers, and physicians was set to expire on January 1, 2021. But the response to this offer was extremely strong and so many clinicians updated their knowledge about medical aid in dying through our [online sessions](#) that we've decided to continue the no-fee policy permanently. Our mission is to provide information and training about medical aid in dying, and we thank you for your participation.
- [Updated recommendations on the pharmacology of aid in dying](#): The Academy has been sponsoring a data-collection study of the effect of adding phenobarbital to the present aid-in-dying medication regimens. Preliminary data from 52 patients supports this addition of phenobarbital. With further data collection, it appears likely that adding

[behind this new recommendation.](#)

- Bedside attendance for aid-in-dying: The Academy strongly believes that, when possible, a trained and skilled clinician or volunteer should be available at the bedside so that families can be completely present with their loved ones, without the anxiety and distraction of being responsible for the medical procedure itself (mixing medications, learning about and following safety and legal requirements, and differentiating the normal signs and symptoms of an aid-in-dying death from the signs of a complication or difficulty). With that in mind, the Academy is working on training clinicians, volunteers, and end-of-life doulas to be skilled and knowledgeable about bedside attendance on the aid-in-dying day. As well, we are working on a referral system to connect patients to this service. Please stay tuned for details, and we welcome all thoughts, comments, or questions.
- The Academy has produced short videos to help clinicians, family members, and patients better understand the details of the aid-in-dying day: [Safely Mixing Medications](#) and [An Enactment of an Aid-in-Dying Day](#). Please share these videos with your colleagues and patients.
- A highly successful launch of the Academy's [Patient to Doctor Referral System](#): One of the most significant obstacles to medical aid in dying is the difficulty for patients to find participating doctors. To address this issue, the Academy established a Patient to Doctor Referral System, an anonymous system to provide physician referrals. To date, we have had 135 patient inquiries, and have successfully placed every appropriate patient with an aid-in-dying physician. Please feel free to refer patients from **any aid-in-dying state** to our [intake form](#), and we will do our best to refer them to a participating doctor. Aid-in-dying physicians can join by using our [Confidential Participating Physician Form](#).

As you can see, the Academy continues to be active on multiple fronts to improve information and education on the clinical aspects of medical aid in dying.

Thank you all!!

Please remember that you can [donate to the continued activities and growth of](#)

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Looking forward,

Lonny

Lonny Shavelson, MD

Chair

[American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying](#)

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