

**What would happen if the OHIO
"End of Life Option Act" becomes law?**

**An individual could obtain a prescription
for a deadly drug overdose.**

A doctor could prescribe lethal drugs under certain conditions for a patient diagnosed with a condition that is expected to cause death "within a relatively short time."

**Severely depressed or mentally ill patients
could receive the lethal drugs without
having any counseling.**

A mental health assessment (which is not counseling) is only required if the physician believes the patient may lack the capacity to make medical decisions or is suffering from impaired judgment.

**Someone other than the patient could
administer the drug overdose that ends the
patient's life.**

The person administering the drugs is to do so only with the patient's knowledge or consent. How would anyone know if the patient knew or consented?

**Patients would have no protection once the
assisted-suicide prescription is filled.**

All requirements, referred to as "safeguards," cease the moment the prescription is filled. There would be no way to know if someone else administered the drugs or if the patient was tricked, or even forced, to take them.

Health insurance programs could refuse to pay for treatments the patient needs and wants, but could pay for the drug overdose.

Would health insurance programs do the right thing – or the cheap thing?

The required written request could be witnessed by someone who would benefit from the patient's death.

Only one of the two witnesses to the written request may not be an heir. The other witness could be the heir's best friend.

Once a doctor-prescribed suicide bill passes, there is no way to know what is really happening.

All of the information contained in official reports comes from those who are carrying out assisted suicide.

Physicians may answer questions on report forms by checking "Unknown."

That's because the physician who prescribed the drugs doesn't need to be present or even know the circumstances surrounding the patient's death.

For the text and fully documented information about the proposal, see:

<http://patientsrightscouncil.org/site/ohio>

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