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Mental Capacity Bill

Dear Sir

As I grow older the prospect of suffering a major stroke and someone else deciding that I have such a low quality of life, that my death can be brought about by dehydration or starvation, is a real anxiety. This is the danger of the mental capacity Bill where various agents can make this decision, not the question of whether the brain is dead or not, as Keith Ferris says (letters 27th July). It is the non dying who will be at risk, if others decide it is in their best interests to be gone.

At their annual policy making conference last month, the BMA passed the motion; "that patients who lose their capacity but who have indicated in advance that they wish to receive artificial hydration and nutrition, should have their wishes respected".

Readers of this may reflect on why such a motion was ever considered necessary.

Yours

Dr Anthony Cole
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