

(2017), and New Zealand (2021). After these, the most recent approvals of euthanasia-related legislation were Spain's Organic Law (2021), and recently, in December 2022, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide were approved by the Portuguese parliament, following four years of discussion.

In this context, an increasing number of countries are currently regulating or considering the inclusion of euthanasia as a healthcare service, which places an urgent need to define the health professionals' and particularly psychiatrists' roles and participation in this process. Currently, these assessments are limited by the lack of scientific precision in the methods used to determine patients' decision-making capacity, conditioning this process to psychiatrists' personal beliefs.

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of Portuguese legislation, highlighting the psychiatrists' involvement.

The implementation of euthanasia in Spain: a one-year balance and current challenges

Javier Olivera

In Spain there have been 180 cases of euthanasia in the past year, one year since the country's Euthanasia Law came into force. The new law established that euthanasia can be carried out if it is the wish of patients who are suffering from serious, chronic and debilitating conditions or serious and incurable illness which causes intolerable suffering. Up to now, the intent to end one's life was considered a sign of psychopathology; psychiatrists are trained to treat the underlying psychiatric disorder. Assessing the mental capacity of an individual making a death wish and acting as an agent for euthanasia is contrary to traditional training of a psychiatrist. The role of psychiatrists concerning Euthanasia in Spain, particularly as far as elderly patients is concerned, is reviewed.

S19: Using narratives to improve quality of long-term care for older people

Chair: JPH Hamers,¹²

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Symposium Overview

Internationally there is a growing interest in evaluating experienced quality of care to better tailor care to resident's needs. Narratives are a promising method to achieve this, because they capture experiences, identify conflicting values, and provide rich data that can be used to learn from and improve quality of care with. In the Netherlands, narratives are becoming a more substantial element within the quality improvement cycle of nursing homes. In this symposium, four Dutch research groups will present studies on how different narratives can be used and implemented in nursing homes to achieve and maintain high quality of care for residents.

The first speaker will present how micro-narratives from care staff, residents and significant others enable the evaluation of long-term care. The second speaker will present how stakeholders improve care by reflecting together on