

# Doctors and suicide

SIR – It is good news that the Royal College of Physicians has clearly reaffirmed its opposition to physician-assisted suicide (report, November 28).

Doctors recognise the negative impact of assisting suicide on their profession and the patients they care for. They should not be asked to be gatekeepers for lethal drugs; they know that predicting life expectancy and assessing mental state are fraught with difficulty.

With some friends and families eager to inherit, it is essential that doctors are not caught up in the collusion of avaricious beneficiaries.

**Baroness Cumberlege**

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