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End-of-life cases

Sir, The requirement to go to court before medical treatment is withdrawn in some parts of the UK extends only to the withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration from patients in a permanent vegetative state or a minimally conscious state ("End-of-life cases must go to court", Oct 26). Other treatment decisions on behalf of adults who lack capacity are made, without recourse to the courts, on the basis of whether continuing treatment is in their best interests, or on the basis of a valid advance decision to refuse treatment (ADRT) which is legally binding on health professionals.

This is not about "killing" patients but about withdrawing those treatments that are not able to provide a benefit to the patient, in some circumstances allowing them to die. This is an intrinsic part of good clinical practice.

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