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Ethical consideration of current “Act on Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment”

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The Act on Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment for Patients at the End of Life came into effect on February 4th, 2018, and amended on March 28, 2019. The legislation establishes a regulatory framework for care at a patient’s end of life. Based on the Act, all Koreans over the age of 19 years can decide whether to refuse life-sustaining treatments at the end of life via advance directive or physician orders for life-sustaining treatment. The main purpose of the Act is to protect the value and dignity of a patient as a human being. The Act in itself is surely important, and it should be evaluated continuously in various aspects. The aim of this presentation is to reveal the major ethical issues in The Act and provide suggestions for dealing with them.