PRINCIPLES OF A GOOD DEATH

- To be able to retain control of what happens
- To have access to information and expertise of whatever kind is necessary
- To be able to issue advance directives which ensure wishes are respected
- To have access to hospice care in any location, not only in hospital
- To have control over pain relief and other symptom control
- To have choice and control over where death occurs (at home or elsewhere)
- To know when death is coming, and to understand what can be expected
- To be afforded dignity and privacy
- To have access to any spiritual or emotional support required
- To have control over who is present and who shares the end
- To have time to say goodbye, and control over other aspects of timing
- To be able to leave when it is time to go, and not to have life prolonged pointlessly.

Taken from ideas expressed in: A good death - An important aim for health services and for us all Richard Smith, editor. BMJ 2000;320:129-130 (15 January)